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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Parliament this week confirms our conviction that Liberals should confine themselves to municipal politics. Dealing with labour questions, the Government made a very good show up to Friday; but whenever the empire came up for consideration, they got into hopeless difficulty. Every South African debate has left them in a worse position than they were in before. If they are not very careful, the public will swing back sharply to imperial matters, and the Liberal game will be up. The Milner matter has already moved the country deeply, and the House of Lords debate on Thursday will stamp the impression deeper still. It is well indeed that one House of Parliament at any rate has cleared itself from suspicion of sympathy with a mean censure by innuendo of him who more than any other one man has kept South Africa in the British Empire. To Englishmen in South Africa Lord Milner stands for the Empire. To belittle him is therefore as hurtful to British influence as helpful to the influence of Britain's ill-wishers.

Lord Elgin could only take refuge in the previous question. It was not a very brave attitude to take up: but he is really more to be pitied than blamed. His official colleague has made his position nearly impossible; and with good intentions Lord Elgin is forced time after time to escape by evasion from policy he cannot approve. But he should not have attempted to trade on Lord Milner's sensibility. To suggest that Lord Milner would deprecate the motion of Lord Halifax from his desire to avoid embarrassing the Government was not playing fair. And Lord Elgin might be a little more apt in his rhetoric. Surely there was some confusion in describing an appeal to Lord Milner, the person on trial, (in the Government view), as an appeal to Cæsar. Lord Halifax was very eloquent. His contributions to the Lords' debates will be expected with increasing public regard. Of course, the Bishop of

Hereford took the opportunity to accentuate his partisanship. If only he were as good a Churchman as he is a Liberal!

At this moment when the whole of South Africa is in a ferment, the constitutional crisis in Natal as a consequence of Imperial intervention has been most unfortunate. The Colonial Secretary ordered that the execution of the twelve natives found guilty of complicity in the recent rising and the murder of two policemen should be suspended; the Natal Government naturally resenting this exercise of the Imperial veto resigned and the colony having been thrown into a state of excitement, Lord Elgin has done the characteristic thing. He has climbed down. The affair would have been less sinister but for Mr. Churchill's recent reference to the readiness of the Imperial authorities to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Transvaal after self-government has been granted. South Africa's native problem must be aggravated by the action which Lord Elgin has seen fit to take. If Natal could not be trusted to administer justice to the natives, then the colony is not fitted for self-government.

The Government's troubles in South Africa do not end here. The debate in the Lords on land settlement opened up new vistas of disaster. Even a very small insight into South African conditions brings home the paramount importance of establishing on the land a British agricultural population. There may be slight chance of such a population ever equalling the Dutch in numbers; but a considerable British minority will be invaluable as a leaven. The process of settlement, so far, may have been costly, but, as Lord Lovat and the Duke of Westminster showed, it has by no means been a failure. But if responsible government is given to the Orange River Colony, what will become of the British settlers, who in effect will be unrepresented in the legislature? Lord Milner uttered a most emphatic warning of the ruin impending over these outposts of British influence, which is what the settlers are, if they are not safeguarded by special provisions of the constitution to be given to the Orange River Colony. Lord Elgin was again reduced to the impotent position of having no answer to make. Once more, it seems, those who have trusted in British protection in South Africa are to be thrown over.

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Mr. Smuts at any rate seems confident that the Boers under the new constitution will get everything they want short of independence. He has been busy stumping the two colonies and making speeches which will disturb the British settler in proportion as they encourage the Dutch. His recent mission to England is bearing fruit in a new movement for uniting Het Volk and the Orangia Association, the joint organisation working in conjunction with the Cape Bond. Whilst Mr. Smuts has made it clear that British officials whose sympathies have not been Dutch will be removed as soon as the Boers are in power, the Afrikander bodies have decided to call the Orange River Colony in future "Transoranje" and to communicate with the Government in Dutch only. In other directions efforts are being made to counteract "the pernicious influence" of English, and the language question is being revived.

In pursuance of his "Australian policy for Australia" Mr. Deakin has spoken emphatically at Ballarat and Adelaide in favour of "protection in all its aspects, fiscal, industrial, anti-monopolistic and preferential with our own countrymen". His invitation to Mr. Reid to assist in amending the tariff in a protectionist direction in order that the socialists in the Commonwealth Parliament may be defeated strikes us as very like an invitation to water to run uphill in order to escape absorption in a tidal river. Socialism is inevitable in Australia and Mr. Reid is the free trade leader. Mr. Reid will probably reply by suggesting that Mr. Deakin should make an advance in the direction of free trade, which is far more anti-socialist than protection. As to preferential tariffs Mr. Deakin does not despair. He thinks a sober examination of trade facts may yet make an Imperial scheme practicable. Meantime the colonies are negotiating among themselves and there should be a fine object-lesson in reciprocity ready for the Colonial Conference next year.

After ten weeks of discussion and alarms the Moorish Conference is in a fair way to agreement. Herr Radowitz and M. Révoil have been photographed together—a matter of some significance if we may believe the reports. It is a sensible hint that Germany and France have compromised their differences. France in co-operation with Spain will police the eight ports; Germany withdraws her claim on Casablanca, while France surrenders one of the four shares she demanded in the control of the State Bank. This leaves the very important question of the Inspector-General open, and there may yet be friction as to his duties and responsibilities. France objects apparently to his reports being made to the Diplomatic body. She insists that they shall go to the Maghzen, which may communicate them to the Powers. This nice regard for the rights of Morocco can hardly be opposed by Germany, seeing that it was to safeguard Moorish independence that Germany originally intervened.

In Russia the Douma elections are being taken seriously enough by all but the revolutionary parties, who are doing their best or worst to make them a fiasco. They are reported to be making another effort to institute a general strike with this object; but though they are keeping up a sporadic contest of outrages and murder and robbery they are too well in hand to effect anything very serious. In S. Petersburg the primary elections are likely to prove favourable to the Constitutional Democrats, and this is true of the towns generally. Prince Dolgoroukoff has been returned for a district near Moscow, and yet he is denounced by the reactionaries as a revolutionist. Extensive alterations are proposed in the system of taxation. Direct taxation in the shape of income-tax and death duties, as well as an increase of indirect taxation, is contemplated; and all these matters are being reserved for the consideration and decision of the Douma when it assembles. There is again a report of Count Witte's illness and impending resignation, but there is no good authority for it.

Coming back to home affairs, it is evident that certain members of the Cabinet—probably Mr. Asquith in chief—have profited by experience. The Government is not repeating the disastrous mistake of 1892-95 in

preferring mere political and destructive legislation—pulling the United Kingdom to pieces and breaking up the Church—to constructive social measures. Maybe Mr. Birrell's educational quandary is contributory in no small degree to the precedence given to the Merchant Shipping Bill, the extension of the Compensation Act, and the Trades Disputes Bill. Either way, whether by their difficulties or by their sagacity, the Government have done the right thing. In the House of Commons they have this week shown themselves at their best as a set-off to a long parading at their worst by Mr. Churchill. The Compensation Bill is on the whole a felicitous instance of sound social policy originated by one party carried on by the other. Both parties are agreed that the time has come to extend the purview of the original Bill. It is interesting to observe that no one now, neither Liberal nor Labour, shows any desire to hark back to the policy of Mr. Asquith's Bill of 1893, whose evisceration by the Lords was at that time the subject of such lamentations and threatenings.

The introduction of the Trades Disputes Bill is the biggest thing Sir J. Lawson Walton has yet done in Parliament; and he did it very well. It is a great pity he was not able to go on as well as he began. A brave opening has fizzled out in a feeble surrender to the Labour party. No one who was not either ignorant or prejudiced could seriously hold that the law as to trade unions should remain as it is. It seems to us almost as difficult for a reasonable man to doubt that the Attorney-General's Bill, following the recommendations of the Committee, is the best settlement. It is not common-sense to talk of conferring on trade unions absolute statutory immunity from an action for damages. On the other side it is neither just nor practicable to leave them in a position which puts them at a great disadvantage as compared with the rest of the community and was never intended by Parliament. Trade unions have become an important factor in the national life, and their status ought to rest on the authority of Parliament, not on the construction of judges desirous of squaring the law with views of justice, honest but their own.

It is certainly most unlucky for the Government that they should first come into open collision with the labour party over proposals on which they might fairly ask for general support. The breach is of course no surprise; we all knew that the labour members meant to hold out for absolute immunity. It is easy to understand working-men preferring a settlement apparently so much to their advantage; whether it would so work out in the end is, however, very doubtful. Trade unions cannot afford to be too unpopular, and an exception to every rule is always an ugly duckling, though it does not usually end in a swan. Still Ministerialists, after all, are merely reaping what they sowed. They promised this to trade unionists during the election, as they promised everything to everybody else, and they must not cry out now when they find they are taken at their word.

The Public Trustee Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords on Tuesday. If the Government have the persistency to get this Bill through Parliament this session, they will be able at any rate to put one piece of solid good work to their credit. A public trustee on the lines of this Bill is required in the interests alike of rich and poor. It is difficult to listen with patience to such criticism as Lord Avebury and Lord Faber solemnly propounded. The bugbear of officialism is about as serious as the terrible danger of damaging private enterprise in trusteeship. Solicitors will appreciate the Lord Chancellor's naïve assurance that "the Bill is not directed against any particular profession". By the way, this Bill has followed hard on the decision in the Moulton case.

We hope the Government's Court of Criminal Appeal Bill will pass the House of Lords substantially as it is drawn. The report of the Beck Commission did not go far enough; not by any means so far as the unanimous recommendations of the Council of Judges in 1893. They proposed that every person convicted should have the right of having his sentence reviewed; and with the a fo c p s to il d

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t is t go ous 393. consent of the Home Secretary they were to reconsider the whole trial. The Bill goes further and enables a new trial to be granted on application as in a civil case. One proposal made by the Judges ought to find a place in the Bill, but does not. Nothing is more shocking than some of the sentences passed by inexperienced Judges in the lower Courts, and there ought to be a Court to review them. The High Court Judges proposed to check frivolous applications by providing that sentences should be increased as well as mitigated on review. In the Bill this right is not so restricted. Lawyers are always hard to convince as to the desirability of change, especially in the criminal law. There is the usual diversity amongst them as to the right of appeal. Lord Halsbury opposes it; Lord James of Hereford is a zealous supporter of it.

Mr. Lloyd-George's statement on Mr. Dickinson's

Mr. Lloyd-George's statement on Mr. Dickinson's motion shows that there is one subject at least—the Port of London—on which the Government have not made up their minds. That the condition of the Port and docks is unsatisfactory is not denied, and it is becoming more unsatisfactory still owing to the uncertainty of the companies as to their fate. Extensions and improvements will naturally not be undertaken whilst that uncertainty lasts. They are simply marking time. Mr. Bowles made an excellent defence of the existing authorities, but it is generally agreed that the Port ought to be in the control of a public trust. To suggest that the London County Council desire to capture the Port is to raise a false issue. What the County Council rightly demands is that the municipal authorities of London should be adequately represented on the body which controls so large a proportion of the commerce of the capital. The administration of a great port is a matter requiring technical skill and expert knowledge, but it is none the less necessary to see that general interests are properly safeguarded.

The London County Council's Electric Supply Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons on Monday and sent to a hybrid committee. Before this committee the promoters of the rival schemes of the Administrative County of London and the District Electric Power Bill are to have a locus standi; and the committee has full power to report on anything that may effect the best means of supplying electric energy in bulk. The fight is keen between the County Council and those who maintain that it cannot supply the needs of London so well as private enterprise. What London cares for is to get its electricity in the best and cheapest manner possible; but if the County Council can do this as well as a private undertaking it ought to have the preference. The private promoters seem confident that they have a case against the Council founded on its financial position, and all its other defects, which is unanswerable; and they are quite content to go before the committee and argue it out. The County Council may be inapt for the work it wishes to undertake, but there are certainly many public bodies who supply electricity cheaper than many companies do.

It appears we must not describe the new scheme for building on the central portion of the Aldwych site as Paris in London. There are to be no gardens used as promenades and the area of open courts will be restricted to a minimum compatible with light and air, and there is only to be one theatre instead of two. Alcoholic licences are limited more strictly to definite parts of the buildings. After all, the main thing is to get this unsightly area covered with decent buildings of some sort and put an end to its lying unremunerative, a burden on the rates.

We are glad that a Unionist protest was recorded against the extension of the Wireless Telegraphy Act for six years more. To fetter the application of a discovery, at present in its very earliest stages, is a practical injury to the whole country, and prejudicial to science itself. Mr. Buxton in excuse could only offer to amend the Bill should cause arise: an offer both illogical and futile, as Lord Balcarres pointed out. How does Mr. Buxton know that he will have one tittle of influence on those who administer the Act in, say, 1910? The period of the Act should have been limited to two years.

Let us compliment Mr. Birrell while we can: a few days and it may not be possible for us to refer to him again in complimentary phrase for a long time. We congratulate him on the courage of his departmental refusal to grant the application of the Leicester Education Committee that teachers should be exempted from compulsory vaccination. Unfortunately a little later he quailed before Mr. Macdonald's question in the House, hinting that the burden of refusal might be thrown on the local authority. How is our brave Minister fallen! We note with not respectful regret that Sir John Rolleston has likewise quailed before the Leicester anti-vaccinationists. If Unionists can win a seat at Leicester only by promoting the admission of unvaccinated teachers, we had rather the seat were not won.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien was quite right to draw attention in the House of Commons to local authorities at Rotherham and elsewhere who would punish mistresses in the elementary schools for wearing some ring or trinket. This is the kind of petty despotism which does the cause of education grave harm. Provided a pupil or assistant teacher does her work well, and is dressed reasonably, there can be no just resort to sumptuary rules or regulations. Of course we all know that there are many disciplinarians and moralists who honestly believe that it is wrong for a school teacher or a maid-servant off duty to wear a ribbon, much more to have a lover or "follower". But their amiable efforts do little to further the cause either of discipline or morality.

morality.

The Prime Minister seems to have been entangling himself lately in trifling and fortuitous correspondence. First he has had a turn with a novelist, whom he gratuitously boomed; and now he has returned to the "twelve million on the verge of starvation". To a clerk of some board of guardians he has been explaining how he arrived at his estimate. He said "hunger" not "starvation", and he made his slip, it seems, through thinking that Mr. Charles Booth's figures for London and Mr. Rowntree's for York applied to the whole country. What this means we have no notion. In the past more than enough has been made of the occasional blazers of Sir Henry; likewise, too much was made of the blazers of Lord Salisbury, particularly the "black man" blazer. People of judgment do not condemn a statesman on the strength of these lapses; but on his general conduct and career, and just at present the Prime Minister is not giving an impression of strength. For one thing he seems so touchy about trifles.

The appeal in the House of Lords in the action brought by Paquin, Limited, the Dover Street milliners, against Mrs. Holden shows that a married woman who is living with her husband, and has his authority for her purchases, cannot herself be made responsible as a principal; she is his agent and nothing more. This would not have been doubtful before the Married Women's Property Act 1893; and it was under this Act that Paquin Co. sought to make Mrs. Holden liable. Two lords thought she ought to be, as the company knew nothing about the husband. Mrs. Holden might have been a widow or living separate. But the Lord Chancellor and Lord Macnaghten agreed with the Court of Appeal that since the facts were that Mr. and Mrs. Holden were keeping house together she must be held to have contracted as agent and not independently for herself; and this is therefore the law.

And yet Lord Macnaghten quoted a saying of Lord Bramwell's, "I very much doubt whether a tradesman has any intention of trusting the husband. He hopes and expects that somehow the wife will get the money and pay for the goods without the husband knowing anything about the matter". The sentiment of this is against his legal opinion however; but it agrees with the evidence of Paquin's manager that they always treated a lady as a principal not as an agent. Lord Robertson, one of the lords who would have made the lady liable, pointed out that his view would not the less make the husband himself responsible also; but of course the husband was not sued in this particular case since he was found to be insolvent.

Mr. Gladstone on Thursday delivered a homily on betting before a deputation of borough and district councillors. Was it Buckston or Etherington who, in defence of betting as the precious privilege of every Englishman, declared that he was ready to make a wager about anything and had once played a man for his ears and won them? He would have stood a poor chance of a reprieve from the Home Secretary of to-day. Mr. Gladstone declared he would like to stop the betting of the "classes" as well as the "masses"; but admitted that legislation to this end is out of the question. He invited the deputation, however, to get some private M.P. to introduce Lord Davey's Bill into the House of Commons where the Government will bless it. This Bill deals with the evils of betting rather as they affect the working classes and poorer gamblers.

We hope the authorities on H.M.S. "Britannia"—with whom happily the matter rests, and not with any Ministerial meddlers or muddlers—will do nothing to discourage the sport of beagling. Mr. Keir Hardie is for abolishing this sport, as no doubt he is for abolishing hunting, shooting, and fishing generally; and he has been questioning Mr. Edmund Robertson on the subject this week. Mr. Keir Hardie would do better to turn his attention to the peculiarly unpleasant sport of rabbit coursing in which labouring men indulge in some places. In beagling, the hares have at any rate not been caught beforehand and then in a wretched, dazed state released from a sack to fall certain victims. Mr. Hardie should bring to bear his eloquence on the rabbit coursers: he might attend the gatherings himself and dissuade his fellow-men from the practice. This would be practical and, one may add, really bold humanitarianism.

Success to Professor Churton Collins! who writes to the "Times" deploring the use in England of a recent American press barbarism, the word "electrocute" instead of "electrocide": of the two, electrocute is a shade uglier. But what is the good of keeping out undesirable aliens, if we are busy all the time breeding specimens at home not a whit lovelier? Take "bike" and "bus": what Americanism can surpass either in loathliness? Then in England to-day we revel in such horrors as "shortage"—which Coleridge in his mildest mood would have gnashed his teeth at—and "up-to-date". But there is one word used among writers, the mention of which makes one blush all over: yes, it is a fact that in certain branches of the writing trade inverted commas are known as "quotes". Let us clean out our Augean stables in England before we criticise those of other countries.

"Quotes" is admittedly the deadliest outrage on the language that has been done. But to our mind far worse than electrocute for electrocide are many of the periphrases of local reporters. Perhaps the most common of all these after "passed away" for "died" describes how Mr. So-and-so "was made the recipient of" such-and-such a gift or testimonial. This expression is enough to make a man dash the paper into the fire in a rage. Mr. Bamford Slack, lately a Hertfordshire Liberal M.P., is one of the latest victims. Did his friends in recognition of his work in S. Albans give him a testimonial or a silver teapot? Not so; they "gave" him nothing; but we may read in many places how this week "Mr. Bamford Slack has been made the recipient of, &c." There must be millions of people who think that it is choicer English to write "Mr. Bamford Slack has been made the recipient of a silver teapot", than to write "Mr. Bamford Slack has been given a silver teapot".

Much was said in Parliament last week about the parlous state of education in Ireland. But Mr. Sloane drew an answer on Wednesday from the Chief Secretary that must put heart into every despondent patriot. On the evening of the 21st the police discovered some sixty boys and girls round a bonfire at a place where three roads meet near Sligo Cathedral. And that which was being burnt was a pile of "Answers" and other magazines. English boys and girls would have been reading instead of burning them. No one need despair of popular education in Sligo.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL v. THE LABOUR PARTY.

THE Government, after bringing in an excellent Trades Disputes Bill, are now intending humbly to eat their own words and humiliate their Attorney-General through fear of the labour party. On Friday, two days after the Attorney-General's unanswerable speech demonstrating the injustice and evil effects of granting immunity to trade unions, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, on the introduction of Mr. Hudson's Trade Union Bill, announced that he intended to vote for this Bill and to leave the whole question in the hands of the House. This is either unabashed cynicism, or irresponsible frivolity, or cowardice. Cowardice we should say. The Government's party organs took alarm at the threatened revolt of the labour members and the extreme Radical wing, and urged them to retrieve what they called the false step by adopting Mr. Hudson's Bill, which represents the very principle denounced by the Attorney-General. To this demand they have now given way. In a position of considerable difficulty they chose to embody one of two alternatives in their Bill, being well aware that the labour party were opposed to it. They knew that the trade unionists were demanding that trade unions should have complete immunity from being sued. Knowing this they de-liberately resolved that this was an unreasonable and unjust demand and their Attorney-General, in one of the ablest and most eloquent speeches ever heard in Parlia-ment, proved conclusively that compliance with it was impossible. This is a matter of principle which admitted of no compromise; at any rate after avowal had been made in public in such terms as Sir J. Lawson Walton used. The Attorney-General could as well, while defending a prisoner, protest his belief in his client's innocence and then take a brief for the prosecution, as first to introduce the Government Bill on Trade

Unions, and then adopt that of Mr. Hudson's.

Let us see what he said of the other alternative, speaking not for himself only but as the mouthpiece of the Government. "Remember we have done away with the old privileges of the aristocracy. Do not let us create privileges for the proletariat and give let us create privileges for the proletariat and give benefits to trade unions analogous to those which were enjoyed by a section of the population in an earlier period of our history. These are considera-tions which have influenced the Government. Is the House sure that it is wise to remove for the House sure that it is wise to remove from these unions, and particularly from the agents they employ, a sense of responsibility? They are often swayed by passion and excitement. Is it wise that these agents should move about with a feeling that, whatever they do and authorise, the property of the union will not have to bear any loss which may be occasioned? Is that feeling likely to induce caution, and prudence, and self-restraint, and regard for the rights and feelings of others, or is it not rather calculated to have the opposite effect, and to check that sense of discipline which it is so desirable that the head office of these great organisations should use over their sub-ordinates?" After such words as these representing ordinates?" After such words as these representing the deliberate views of the Government on the question of freeing trade-union funds from all liability, the Government has exposed itself to derision and con-Government has exposed itself to derision and contempt by retreating from the position it took up with such a parade of justice and equity. Their Bill was a declaration on what side justice and equity lay. It is true Mr. Asquith and other Liberal candidates during the election held out hopes that the Taff Vale case would be completely reversed by Liberal legislation. But the Government did not think fit to redeem these promises; and Sir J. Lawson Walton on their behalf repudiated them. He professed indeed that the labour party as a body have not desired the extreme behalf repudiated them. He professed indeed that the labour party as a body have not desired the extreme proposals; and he quoted the member for Derby and the member for Morpeth; neither being a very convincing witness to the general opinion of the labour representatives who are now in the House. then was a blunder founded on a mistake as to what the labour party really wants; and, having so blundered, they in a panic execute a volte-face and go bodily over into Mr. Hudson's camp? In any case the Opposition has a clear line. It has not

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to ving sought votes by encouraging the claim for immunity and it is not an extravagant supposition that it will have the support of the House of Lords in refusing to pass any Bill which betrays the principles expounded

by Sir J. Lawson Walton.

The Bill as it was presented was a quite satisfactory attempt to deal with a very difficult question.

The recommendations of the recent report of the Trade Disputes Committee are followed; and we may mention, for the purpose of showing how the situation reveals itself to unbiassed inquiry, that prior to the publication of the report an article in this Review had set out the several matters in trade union law which required alteration, precisely to the same effect as the recommendations of the report and the provisions of this Bill. What is required to meet all the fair demands of the trade unions is not that they shall be neither responsible for their own acts nor their agents, but that the agents who may bind them by their acts shall be clearly defined, and this is the principle of the Bill. If such agents act contrary to orders given them in good faith by the union, the Bill provides that the union shall not be liable. This is to a certain extent an alteration of the general law in favour of the unions; but there is nothing repugnant to good sense in it. We have mentioned before the case in which an omnibus company was made liable in damages for a driver racing his omnibus, though this was strictly forbidden. We do not think if the result had been different, anyone's conscience would be shocked. Most people would think it unreasonable that a man who had forbidden another to act for him in a certain way should

be responsible as his principal.

The definition of the responsible agents of a trade union raises many difficulties which would require careful consideration in committee. It might be so wide that the demand for immunity would in effect be conceded, though it were not in express terms; or so restricted that it would be little relief to the unions. There would be room here for reasonable arrangement between the two extremes. The other point on which the Bill makes some distinction in favour of trade unions is in regard to the law of conspiracy. The cook may object to the butler and give notice without doing anything illegal; but if cook and housemaid and kitchenmaid combine and give notice because they object to the butler, they might be indicted or sued for a conspiracy. This has often been declared to be an absurdity and often an oppression. In the Trade Union Act it was provided in favour of the unions that in trade disputes there haveld be an indictant unless the set processed. should be no indictment unless the act proposed to be done was in itself a crime. The Government Bill proposes that the trade unions shall not be liable civilly unless the act if done by one person would have made him civilly liable. That gives no immunity to unlawful acts such as a combination to cause workmen to break existing contracts; but a definite illegal act would always have to be shown. Take for example the case of picketing. At present the only picketing permitted is the giving or obtaining information; the most peaceable form of persuasion not to accept work during a strike is illegal. Show that a trade union had during a strike is illegal. Show that a trade union had taken some part in setting men to use such peaceable persuasion and it becomes liable in damages for conspiracy. But under the Bill peaceable persuasion would be no longer illegal; and consequently there could be no conspiracy to promote it. There would remain illegal picketing, and illegal acts of conspiracy, and illegal acts of agents, however narrowly defined the agents might be. Mr. Shackleton appears to think, or he says, that the unions by "repudiating" liability would be as immune as if the Bill had in set terms made them immune. He is greatly mistaken. Some Liberal newspapers pretend that the difference between the Government Bill and Mr. Hudson's is one of method, the result being the same. If so, what is the meaning of Sir J. Lawson Walton's demonstration of the injurious consequences which immunity would have? the injurious consequences which immunity would have? What is the difference between "aristocratic" privileges conferred totidem verbis and introduced surreptitiously? There is none; and Sir J. Lawson Walton's speech now reads as hardly better than flagrant hypocrisy. But the contention is too absurd to be treated seriously. The Attorney-General demolished it when he pointed out

that one of the chief advantages to trade unions under the Bill is that the tribunal for the future would be a court and not a judge and jury. What need will there be even for a judge after the Government has adopted Mr. Hudson's Bill? The Government proposals and Mr. Hudson's are wide as the Poles are apart.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

WE cannot better illustrate what we mean by the opportunity of the House of Lords than by the opportunity of the House of Lords than by comparing its transactions on Tuesday last, not a "full-dress" occasion, but an ordinary Parliamentary day, with those of what used to be called in the sixteenth century "the Nether House of Parliament". The House of Lords met at four and rose at eight of the clock: and in those four hours there was read a second time the Criminal Appeal Bill, and the Public Trustee Bill; and there ensued a serious and pithy discussion on the settlement of land in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. Opinions differ as to the expediency of giving a condemned prisoner the right of appealing to a court of three judges not only on points of law but on questions of fact; since the Beck case no one can deny the cogency of the arguments in favour of granting an appeal on points of law. The Bill was introduced by the Lord Chanof law. The Bill was introduced by the Lord Chancellor, and it was concisely and pertinently discussed by Lord Cross, one of the most successful Home Secretaries who ever sat at Whitehall, by Lord Halsbury, the ex-Lord Chancellor, and by Lord James of Hereford, for many years the leader of the Bar and a Liberal Attorney-General. This is the perfection of government by discussion. The highest experts in the country small shortly on the principle of a Bill, which is country speak shortly on the principle of a Bill, which is then referred to a committee for the consideration of its clauses. The Bill for the appointment of a public trustee to protect the estates of the poor and the ignorant from fraudulent trustees was also introduced by the Lord Chancellor, and supported by Lord Halsbury. We should have thought its object so plainly beneficial to the community as to place it in the category of unopposed Bills: but apparently it interferes with the business of banks, for a recently ennobled provincial banker, Lord Faber, made his maiden speech against it, and he was backed by Lord Avebury. Whether banks and insurance companies are fitted to discharge the duties of trustees we do not mean to discharge the duties of trustees we do not mean to argue in this article. The point is that the discussion of this very important subject was conducted in a brief and businesslike spirit by two of our first lawyers and two of our first bankers, and then read a second time. In the House of Commons every fool and bore who had ever been a trustee, or had a trustee, or even a banking account, would have endeavoured to prove by lengthy speeches either that all Conservatives fraudulent trustees, or that the object of the Bill was to create a well-paid job for a Liberal official. After having thus quietly sped forward these two most useful measures, the Lords, upon the initiation of Lord Lovat, entered upon a discussion of the question of the row cettlers in our South African colories. Lord Lovat, entered upon a discussion of the question of the new settlers in our South African colonies. After the surrender of Vereeniging Lord Milner's Government devoted a considerable sum of money, out of funds provided by the British Parliament, to the purchase of land in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, on which British farmers were invited to settle, paying for their holdings by a system of instalments. If the Orange River Colony is to be handed over to a Government which admittedly will be composed of Dutchmen, what is likely to be the fate of the new British settlers? Such was the question which was debated in the House of Lords, soberly and calmly, by two or three peers who had special knowledge of the subject. Lord Lovat, as the world knows, equipped and despatched to the war a body of scouts, who bore his name, some of whom, being hardy Scotchmen, doubtless availed themselves of the offer of their own Government to start farming in a new country. The Duke of Westminster has a special right to be heard on this question, for besides having new country. The Duke of Westminster has a special right to be heard on this question, for besides having served under Lord Milner during the war as Lord Belgrave, he has bought a large property in the

Orange River Colony, built himself a house, and begun farming on a large scale. It is not perhaps likely that a Dutch Government will "squeeze out" the Duke of Westminster: he is too big a personage for that treatment. But the Duke discovered a very honourable concern for his fellow-countrymen in a similar but smaller situation, and expressed a "hope that the question of land settlement should not be left to a responsible Government but should not be left to a responsible Government, but kept in the hands of the Colonial Office until such time as the settlers found their footing". The Secretary of State for the Colonies replied in a vague speech, declining to commit himself before the promulgation of the new constitution, and Lord Milner wound up the debate with one of his temperate and weighty ings against handing over the British to the mercy of the lately conquered and still exasperated Dutch. The above account represents a very fair four hours' work. And this is the opportunity of the House of Lords-to show the country what government by discussion can and ought to be, when conducted by serious and responsible men, who treat imperial affairs from a national not a party point of view.

Having looked on the picture of the House of Lords, let us look at the picture of the House of Commons on

let us look at the picture of the House of Commons on the same day. The second reading of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill might fairly be supposed to be non-contentious; yet even on such a subject it was impossible to prevent certain members of the Opposition from taunting the Government with the "protectionist" character of the measure! When will members of the House of Commons learn that their wretched petty "scores" off one another are of less than no interest to the public, and merely disgust thinking men with the system of parties? But it was at the evening sitting that the House of Commons sank to its lowest depths of partisan controversy. Into the Sugar Convention Great Britain has entered, wisely or unwisely, for a period of five years, of which two and a half years have What is the use therefore of wasting a whole sitting upon a recriminatory discussion as to whether the convention was a good or a bad transaction? When the time comes to renew or to denounce the treaty a debate will have some relevance. But it cannot be denounced now, although a conference is to be held in May by the signatory Powers as to the scale of duties, at which Great Britain will be represented, of course, by a delegate. But for three mortal hours the debate raged round the following points; had the convention raised the price of sugar or had it not? (and as soon as a member produced one set of figures to prove that it had, he was immediately confronted by another set of figures to prove that it had not); had the late Government left the country in a mess or in the late Government left the country in a mess or in an "impasse" or had it not? Ought not the present Government, having originally objected to the convention, to denounce immediately the treaty, though such denouncement can have no effect for two years and a half? And in attempting to answer these knotty and unfruitful questions, Lord Percy and Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman cuffed and thwacked one another right valiantly, until at length the utter one another right valiantly, until at length the utter futility of the whole proceeding was admitted by the withdrawal of both the motion and the amendment! If it were made a standing order of the House of Com-mons that no reference in debate would be allowed to the acts of the preceding Government or to speeches delivered at the last General Election, the business of

corrigible. We have sufficiently pointed the contrast between the House of Lords and the House of Commons as legislative and deliberative assemblies. The Nether House of Parliament is at present under the sway of journalists, declaimers, dissenting ministers, briefless barristers and labour agitators, without experience, without professional, commercial or social position, with no common bond except their volubility and immodesty. But the weakness of the House of immodesty. But the weakness of the House of Commons is the opportunity of the House of Lords,

the nation would be wonderfully expedited. And yet Mr. Balfour has the hardihood to pretend to the City

Fathers that the House of Commons has not degenerated! But Mr. Balfour's love of paradox is in-

which never stood higher in popular respect than to-day. It should be remembered that since the last attack upon the House of Lords in 1884 a great advance has been made in the education of the Everybody reads the newspapers nowadays, and every man who so reads cannot but be struck by the superiority of the House of Lords in the matter of expert knowledge and political experience over the present House of Commons. It is the function of the House of Lords to hold the mirror up to the nation, to show the facts as they really are, to criticise fearlessly and as courageously to amend the hasty and partisan bills that will come up to them from the majority of the House of Commons. Besides the members of the late Government, there are plenty of peers who have never held office, for reasons only known to Mr. Balfour and to Mr. Chamberlain, but who are well qualified to assist in this work of statesmanship. Lord Newton, for instance, and Lord Newlands have served in the House of Commons for over twenty years, and with their ripe and varied knowledge of politics ought to have little difficulty in dealing with a Government bench which is conspicuously weak in that kind of ability. It is the great advantage of the House of Lords, as Lord Salisbury once pointed out, that it is not composed of partisans, and that its members "approach all questions in a spirit of good-humoured indifference". That is a slightly cynical way of describing what Bagehot more happily called "ani-mated moderation". It is the right spirit in which to approach the affairs of a great empire. Only let the peers "be just and fear not".

THE NEW PHASE IN WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

N one respect at any rate the new Workmen's Com-1 pensation Bill is an improvement, or a happy development, of the old. The original Act excludes all workmen not expressly included; this Bill includes all not excluded, a change which will probably save much litigation. It is to be regretted however that Mr. Gladstone did not put more of his convictions into the Bill and less into his speech. Throughout there is evidence of a lack of courage to accept the logical results of principles enounced. Probably the greatest difference of opinion will centre round the suggestion to alter the existing probationary period of fourteen days for which no compensation is payable. Here the Government shows both want of pluck and lack of logic. This period was obviously devised to prevent a host of claims for petty mishaps, it being generally accepted that if a claim could be made immediately any injury were suffered, there would be a strong temptation to gain a few days' pay at the employer's expense. This view is either reasonable or unreasonable. able, the fortnight should stand; if not, why merely halve the period, as is suggested, instead of abolishing it altogether? While employers should be protected from claims which, though small in themselves, add in the aggregate greatly to the cost of production, we think workmen who have been unfortunate enough to meet with serious accidents have a reasonable grievance in the fortnight's loss of compensation. If once it be established that the accident is serious, we can see no reason for denying payment from the date of injury. Let the probationary period stand; but on the proof of genuine injury the compensation accruing for that period should be paid in lump sum. Perhaps in this way masters and men may arrive at a reasonable com-

The Bill is far too tender to the small industrial employer (not using machinery or mechanical power) who ployer (not using machinery of internations if he is not employing more than five men is to be exempt from its provisions. The argument is that if exempt from its provisions. The argument is that if he were included he would refuse to insure, and a claim by his workmen would only result in bankruptcy. Adby his workmen would only result in bankruptcy. Admitting this view to be sound, would it not apply equally to the case of the small farmer, who if he has but one labourer is yet liable? Why should one be taken and the other left? Even from the small employer's selfish point of view exclusion will hardly benefit him, as the best workmen will inevitably shun a

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master who is under no liability. Indifferent workmen do not bring much profit. Compensation for disease arising out of employment is a new feature in this class of legislation and we are heartily glad to find that it is at last to be made compulsory, though we venture to doubt the wisdom of including it in the present Bill. Under the provisions which Mr. Gladstone indicated it will be extremely difficult to allot the proportion of navment due from several masters, and we cannot payment due from several masters, and we cannot help thinking that the only satisfactory method is to schedule the dangerous trades and institute a common compensation fund, something in the nature of that now working in the Potteries. This might be better done working in the Potteries. This might be better done by a separate Bill, but separation should not be pressed unless a definite promise can be obtained from the Government to act without delay, as the misery wrought by poisoning from phosphorus and lead has been allowed to go uncompensated too long.

How social reform may occasionally bring about unforced by the gold difficulty.

foreseen hardships is instanced by the sad difficulty many of the older workmen are finding in getting employment. Insurance companies will not give masters the same terms for men who are likely to become more liable to injury through failing powers; thus the older workmen have gradually been elbowed out by their younger competitors. The Bill proposes to give less compensation to men over sixty; we hope the change will cause many old unemployed to find work again. We cannot understand why once-injured workmen are not to be put on a similar footing, but this is a detail which probably will be pressed in

Committee.

The change proposed in the status of the medical referees should have the effect, so far as compensation cases are concerned, of abolishing the touting solicitor and the needy medical practitioner. Too much comcases are concerned, of abolishing the touting solicitor and the needy medical practitioner. Too much compensation has been swallowed up in legal charges and doctors' fees. In future if the workman will not accept the view of his injury taken by his employer's medical man, he will be able at once to apply to the medical referee, whose decision will be final. When it becomes necessary, from either party's point of view, to review the case, the same procedure can be followed. By this compulsory though reasonable arbitration the County Court Judge is saved the difficulty of deciding between conflicting medical testimony, and the workman becomes certain of receiving an honest professional opinion. If the workmen are to have confidence in the medical referees, the Home Office must make sure of appointing members of the profession who have had experience in members of the profession who have had experience in factory work, and who will undertake to give up private practice. By including seamen in the Bill the Government has taken a line of its own in opposition to the recommendation of the Departmental Committee. The benefits conferred will it was elicited in the course of benefits conferred will, it was elicited in the course of the debate, be shared by the many foreigners in our mercantile marine. We should not object to seeing some amendment restricting compensation to nationalities which treat us equally well. Clerks, shop-people and domestic servants are left out. The work of clerk or counter-hand cannot in any sense be regarded as dangerous, and unless compensation is to be universal, the omission is logical. Domestic servants are peculiarly situated. As a rule they are far more kindly treated as a matter of affection or duty than they would be under legal compulsion, and would lose rather than gain by any change in the law.

The debate on the Bill made it clear that a good

many difficulties would be cleared up by a system of compulsory insurance by the State or otherwise. Public opinion travels much faster in social legislation nowadays, and we should not be surprised to find the principle cheerfully admitted before many years are

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BRITAIN.

N the idle debate on the Sugar Convention Mr. Lloyd-George once more trotted out the argument that the convention does not secure for this country the benefit of the natural price, inasmuch as "we are excluding all the produce of a country like Russia—something

like 1,000,000 tons a year". No doubt it is true that Russian sugar cannot be exported to this country, but the President of the Board of Trade should have ointed out that Russia has little desire to export sugar. She requires nearly the whole of her production for home consumption, while of the balance remaining for export by far the larger part is sent to Persia, China and Afghanistan. Nor does it appear that the China and Afghanistan. Nor does it appear that the exporting power of Russia has suffered appreciably by her exclusion from the principal European markets since, according to F. O. Licht, the exports in the season 1904-5 from Russia amounted to 208,000 tons as against 209,000 and 219,000 tons respectively in each of the two preceding seasons. But from the strictly economic point of view—and this aspect should at least have some weight with orthodox free traders at least have some weight with orthodox free traders —it may be urged once more that the price of an article is determined not by the local supply and the local demand, but by the whole world's supply and demand. Hence whether Russia can export her sugar to this country or not is immaterial so long as she can export at all. This view receives strong official support in a Foreign Office paper issued during the period in office of the Rosebery Ministry. Referring to the exclusion of Russian cereals from Germany during the Russo-German tariff war, Sir M. Gosselin maintained that the only effect of the exclusion of Russian cereals was to turn the stream of export into other channels. Russian wheat filled up the gap caused by the diversion was to turn the stream of export into other channels. Russian wheat filled up the gap caused by the diversion of, say, American wheat to Germany, and the prices in Germany and elsewhere simply followed the prices quoted in London, which again were regulated by the general supply of the world. For cereals substitute sugar, and for Germany the United Kingdom, and the application to the present question is complete and final.

There is however another aspect of the sugar question which we are glad to see Lord Denbigh intends to raise in the House of Lords next Monday. This is the possibility of developing a sugar industry in this country similar to those which are to be found, prosperous and flourishing, in nearly every continental State. The old belief that the absence of sufficient sunshine would prevent the successful establishment of a sugar-beet growing industry in this country has now been proved to be nothing but moonshine. Numerous experiments carried out in recent years in different parts of this country and in Ireland under a variety of weather conditions and on many different kinds of soil agree absolutely in the result that at least as good a quality of beet could be produced in this country as in the most favoured districts of Germany. Thus according to Lord Denbigh's own experiments at Newnham in the wet season of 1903, he was able to raise beet having an average of 18'34 per cent. of sugar-juice, of which 88'49 per cent. could be extracted, as compared with 16'87 per cent. of sugar-juice of which 85'63 per cent. could be extracted in the case of German roots. This means, in other words, that one ton of sugar could be extracted from 6·16 tons of English beet as compared with 6·69 tons of German beet; in other words English beet were about 8 per cent. better in quality. These results are corroborated by all the other experiments we have seen and may be said at once to establish the fact that beet of the desired quality could be raised in

this country.

Our present annual consumption of beet sugar is about 1½ million tons, to produce which would require a crop of 10 to 12 million tons of beet. Assuming a yield of 15 to 20 tons per acre this would mean a new crop for our farmers from about 600,000 to 800,000 acres of their land, or about half our present wheat area. The value of this crop could hardly be less than 15s. per ton, and so represents a new source of revenue equivalent to £12 to £15 per acre. At an average selling price of 10s. per cwt. for the sugar the value of the new industry, supposing all the sugar to be grown at home, could hardly be less than £15,000,000 per annum, sufficient if necessary to give highly remunerative employment to the whole of our present workless population. If it be remembered, however, that in any business scheme the sugar factory would have to be settled close to the beet fields, in order to reduce carriage expenses, and further that the beet would

have to be worked up immediately after the harvest, it is seen that the question involves something more than the establishment of a new industry. It means employment for a considerable number of our agricultural labourers in the winter-time in the sugar factories, when field-work is a minimum. The scheme promises therefore an effective remedy for checking the rapid and deplorable depopulation of our agricultural districts. It is likely to be even more effective in this respect than any extension of the principle of small holdings which the present Government have promised. If their desire to discover an efficient remedy for the continuing decay of the agricultural industry be genuine, here is one which, to say the least and to put it at its lowest, is

well worth trying.

It is recognised however that it must take some little time before our present agricultural labourers could adapt themselves to working this new crop. To get the best possible result, the beet has to be cultivated under right conditions, and experience alone will teach what these are. They include such technical details as the distance between the neighbouring rows, the kind of seed best suited to a particular locality and soil, the quantity of manure and fertilisers, and whether horse-hoeing or hand-hoeing is preferable. In the earlier years the development of beet-growing under the most favourable conditions is therefore likely to be attended with some difficulty, owing to the want of necessary experience on the part of the farmers. This in turn would affect the rate at which capital could be attracted to the erection of the necessary sugar factories. It is estimated that factories capable of producing the whole of our present beet-sugar requirements would need an initial capital outlay of something like £2,000,000. To produce 100,000 tons per annum would require an outlay of about £120,000, and even this comparatively small sum could not be raised at the present time because the prospect of profits is said to be too remote. Lord Denbigh thinks, however, and we have known many who agree with him, that if the Government will waive their claim to so much of the excise as the Brussels Convention specifically allows, there would be no difficulty whatever in raising all the capital that might be wanted. Undoubtedly according to the present fiscal practice of this country, this ought not to be allowed. Every Customs duty, we are told, must be counterbalanced by an equivalent Excise duty. But the present Government have already shown that on occasion they are able to divest themselves of this traditional dogma. And besides, as we have already pointed out, they have promised to enlarge the Small Holdings Act, a scheme which will involve expenditure on behalf of a particular class. Suppose in two years 100,000 tons of sugar were raised at home, and the full difference of 2s. 6d. allowed by home, and the full difference of 2s. 6d. allowed by the Brussels Convention between the Customs and Excise duties were remitted, the total loss to the revenue would be only £125,000. This does not seem to us an extravagant price to pay for the establishment of a new industry which, by preventing the annual migration of agricultural labourers to the towns to swell the ranks of the unemployed and the natural there will lead to a greater saving in the the paupers there, will lead to a greater saving in the

poor-rates.

The position a few years after such an industry were established would be somewhat as follows. The farmer would get 15s. per ton for his beet, a price at which we are informed he would be perfectly willing to grow it. This would produce about 3 cwt. of sugar which at 10s. per cwt. is worth 30s., leaving a margin of 100 per cent. for manufacturing expenses and profits. This we understand is a sufficiently large return to This we understand is a sufficiently large return to permit of a considerable reduction in price and, in the end, the price of sugar in this country would be likely to fall. The development of this industry, with the aid of the slight protection we have advocated, should therefore in a few years result in a cheapening of sugar to every consumer. To those who believe so completely in the gospel of cheapness we recommend this as a sound investment which, in the interests of the country, they cught not to besitate to interests of the country, they ought not to hesitate to

SEA-LIONS FROM JAPAN.

ONDON has had an opportunity this week, for the first time since the Russo-Japanese war, of expressing the national sentiment for the Japanese. No doubt a body of sailor men fresh from famous victories will excite a curiosity and admiration which the nation to which they belong might not do. Much of the en-thusiasm they evoke is personal and peculiar to them-selves and depends on the circumstances of the moment. Japanese soldiers or sailors, especially if they had taken part in the war, would naturally receive a warmer welcome than any other class of their countrymen. The welcome than any other class of their countrymen. The simple virtues of bravery, devotion to military duty, patriotism speak with the same intelligible voice to all; and these we understand though in many respects the whole tissue of national character may be as different as possible from our own. But after making all these as possible from our own. But after making all these reservations the welcome given to the Japanese sailors may be taken as an expression of the British view of the Japanese nation. Very fortunately the war feeling the Japanese nation. Very fortunately the war feeling is over; and the public have been able to express their feelings without the offensive exaggeration they would have put into them if the war had been going on. They would have overdone their reception of the Japanese visitors; not because they loved the Japanese more but because they loved the Russians less. The occasion has indeed been a happy one. We are pleased to see crews of Japanese sailors coming to take back two battleships built in our own dockyards. That means immediate profit; and for the future we feel a natural satisfaction, as allies of the Japanese, in seeing them strengthen from their own resources the naval power by which the alliance will be maintained.

This flavour of ships and sailors which has pervaded

the visit is better than anything more formal or official would have been. No ceremonial functions were needed in the circumstances of such a visit; and it has happened on that account that those things precisely were done which brought out most clearly the common sentiment and community of feeling which exists be-tween British and Japanese however deep may be the differences between the East and West. Through Nelson Briton and Japanese approach each other. Each may be in profound ignorance of many religious and ethical motives which sway the other. In regard to most of the things relating to this world and the next their views may be as irreconcileable in the future as they have been in the past. The Japanese is probably separated from the Britisher by a gulf of thought as deep and wide as if he were a Hindoo or a Chinaman. In many respects his virtues arouse our admiration, but they are the virtues of a pagan, and are as uninfluenced by the feelings which we call distinctly Christian as were those of the ante-Christian Roman and Greek. His fearlessness of death, and the negative attitude he takes as to the consequences of death, are totally unlike the state of mind of any ally the Englishman has ever had before. We admire the civic and military ideals of the Japanese as we have always admired those of pagan Greeks and Romans in their best days in spite of all the differences which separate the pre-Christian from the post-Christian order of thought. Yet it is true there is a bond between Japanese and Englishman which is unique: it is the tradition of Nelson. No two European nations that the state of Nelson. No two European nations have a common hero at whose name they equally thrill with pride and whose glory awakes the pride of both. But Japan and England have such a hero in Nelson. Both have found in him the embodiment of their ambitions and the virtues of their peoples. No two men of any other country could stand by the tomb of Nelson as Japanese and Briton can stand there with feelings so entirely in unison. There is no other shrine at which Pagan and Christian could stand and pay the same reverence.

It is a curious question, however, whether this borrowing as it were the national hero of another people is significant of strength or of weakness. Throughout Europe it is a common formula that the Japanese are a wonderful people and have already done many wonderful things. Everything that we know of Japan in recent years has suggested a nation that appeared to have exhausted one form of civilisation

blossoming out into another form of civilisation for which the preceding seemed not to have been a gradual and steady preparation. It has never been taken as a good sign in the history of nations when they have begun wholesale borrowings of the laws, methods, customs and ways of thinking of other peoples. Only young, rude, unformed nations have been thought able to do this with success. An exotic civilisation is a phrase expressing a general conviction that a nation which has followed its own lines of development for centuries, only fixes the point of its decadence when it begins these wholesale borrowings. But Japan seems to have proved herself an exception to the law of nations; and to have done what would have seemed from previous cases impossible. Her adoption of the methods of modern science in war and industry, which other Eastern nations have seemed incapable of, has saved her from their fate of being dominated by Europe. Still Japan has only been imitative; she has not been original; but with the desire to imitate she has had the intelligence to see what she must imitate for her own safety. The remarkable thing is that she has had such a desire with such intelligence. She belongs to that part of the world which for some reason or another has never been attracted to physical science. The work was done when Japan came into contact with modern Europe. It was as impossible then for her to show originality in this sphere as it is for England or France at this date to produce an original modern literature independent of their literary history. So much can be put forward in answer to the charge of want of originality in Japan's material progress. And the same may be said for her copying of European legislative and legal procedure. Those who know Japan find in her peculiar clever-ness of adapting what she borrows to her peculiar circumstances quite enough originality to take her circumstances quite enough originality to take her out of the category of mere mimetics who copy without seeing into the inner principles of what they imitate. Japan has undoubtedly shown great intellectual power: and this dubious question of originality is only of importance if we are desirous of judging whether her future progress will be sustained, and whether she will take the ultimate rank in the world which she has the ambition to take. She cannot be the rivel of Farence She cannot be the rival of Europe ambition to take. She cannot be the rival of Europe unless she equals Europe in originality. Having received her education she must make independent contributions to the common stock. Until then Japan tributions to the common stock. Until then Japan must remain a sort of prodigy, an infant phenomenon whose real value cannot yet be appraised. In the meantime our estimate of her virtues seems likely to be somewhat naïve. Britons are inclined to assign to the Japanese all the loftier Christian virtues theoretical and in practice. It will be well to remember that they are not saints. They have more than a moderate share of vanity and conceit; and in business they do not lack smartness, in the American sense. Their friendship for us must be assessed in terms of self-interest. If we assess ours for the Japanese in the same way, we shall not gush.

THE CITY.

M ONEY has been tight at this week's settlement on the Stock Exchange, but it is expected that by next week there will be greater ease. The feature of the week has been the signs of recovery after a month's stagnation in the American railway market. Union Pacifics have risen during the last seven days from 156\frac{3}{4} to 160, Southern Pacifics from 68\frac{1}{4} to 70\frac{1}{2}, Atchison from 95\frac{1}{16} to 97\frac{1}{4}, and Readings from 65 to 70. The question of the coal strike both in the bituminous and anthracite trades is at the time of writing undecided; but Wall Street seems to have made up its mind either that the strikes will not take place, or that if they do prices will not be much affected by reason of the precautions taken by the coalowners. It is known that very large accumulations have been made, larger than usual owing to the smaller consumption during an unusually open winter. One of the effects therefore of a strike would be that these stores of coal would be sold at enhanced prices, which would more than offset the stoppage of work, particularly to a company like the

Reading, which is as much a coal as a railway company. Thus it is argued that Readings would go up on the declaration of a strike; and as they will certainly rise if there is no strike, they would seem to be a good purchase. It may be delayed for a week, or even till after Easter, when Congress adjourns; but that a bull campaign is planned for the merry month of May is beyond a doubt, according to the best information. Unions, Canadas, Baltimores, Chesapeakes, Readings, Steel Commons, Denvers, and Atchisons will all rise substantially when the movement once begins, while Southerns and Southern Pacifics have also their backers.

It is not to be expected that the Kaffir market should show any striking strength under present conditions, though as eels are said to grow accustomed to being skinned alive, it may be that the South African shareholder will in time grow accustomed to the speeches of Mr. Winston Churchill. In the meantime, waiting the new constitution, South African shareholders would do well if they formed some sort of organisation like the Council of Foreign Bondholders. At present most of the South African mining companies are registered in the Transvaal: their offices are in Johannesburg: and their directors are nominees, who carry out the orders of the big houses. An instance of this kind has been seen lately in the case of the New Heriot and Nourse Mines companies. An attempt was made to force the New Heriot shareholders to acquire some claims from the Nourse Mines, which was defeated by the strenuous opposition of some of the shareholders to the dummy directors, who are appointed by the magnates. The same kind of thing was witnessed over the amalgamation of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and the Barnato Consolidated companies. The shareholders were never consulted in the matter, and were treated as a negligible quantity by the Messrs. Joel. All this should be changed, and might easily be reformed if the shareholders would only organise themselves. It is intolerable that the British shareholders, who have paid for the war, should be trampled under foot by the Joels.

Amongst foreign railways the United Railways of Havana have recovered from 169 to 175, the selling from the other side having ceased, and as they are sure to earn 15 per cent. on the new capital, this stock is certainly worth 200, if not 220, a figure they have already touched. Peruvian Preference were unduly depressed by the news that the legislature had adjourned for the hot weather without settling the loan with the German banks, and fell to 49, but recovered to 50 upon the suggestion that negotiations would be continued with the Finance Minister. Amongst "fancy" purchases the shares of the Glenrock, an Indian gold mine near the Mysore, are a good deal talked about at 7s., some bold spirits predicting that they will go to as many pounds.

Two serious attempts to get British capital for the development of Japan have recently been made. The Industrial Bank of Japan is an old-established native concern, whose shares were recently introduced to our market at $6\frac{1}{7}$ and are now $7\frac{1}{7}$. Then there is the brandnew Anglo-Japanese Bank with £2,000,000 capital, and a board of directors, whose names, though highly respectable, do not impress us very much. For a new bank to make money in Japan, its directors will have to get up very early in the morning, for the Yokohama Specie Bank and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank are there before them.

BRITISH POLICYHOLDERS IN AMERICAN LIFE OFFICES.

L ORD ONSLOW raised an important question in the House of Lords when he referred to the position of British policy-holders in American Life offices. The three New York companies, the Equitable, the Mutual, and the New York Life, have between them something like 80,000 British policyholders. We are glad to see that he was careful to mention that the security for the payment of the amounts guaranteed under the policies was adequate; but in one or two

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details his speech showed a lack of information on the subject. He spoke of the assets of the three companies as being at the disposal of the four persons who held the majority of the stock—as a matter of fact only the Equitable is a stock company, the other two being mutual offices, and even in the Equitable the control has now passed from the shareholders to the policyholders. He also spoke of one company being liable for £15,000,000, and although it is true that the British policyholders of the Mutual of New York are assured for £15,000,000, the present liability under these policies is probably less than one-third of this amount. The safeguard which Lord Onslow suggested was that legislation should be passed by the British Parliament requiring foreign companies to deposit in this country funds which would be sufficient to meet the liabilities to British policyholders. It is easy to quote precedents for this course from Prussia and other foreign countries, and it is the case that British Fire insurance companies doing business in the United States have to make deposits on these lines; but we fail to see that legislation of this kind would be of any material benefit to policyholders in the United Kingdom.

The Government responded to Lord Onslow by

The Government responded to Lord Onslow by agreeing to the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the subject. It is difficult to see what such a committee can do. It could of course recommend legislation imposing some restrictions upon foreign offices, or providing for control of their affairs by a department of the Board of Trade. Restrictions could probably only take the form of compelling the deposit of securities, which, as we have said, seems of little value. Control by a government department would, in all likelihood, hinder the satisfactory development of the business, or if the control were effective and beneficial would give the controlled foreign companies an apparent advantage over uncontrolled British offices. Any attempt to control British offices in the same way that insurance offices are supposed to be controlled in the States, would inevitably mean the promotion of the inferior companies at the expense of the superior. The freedom which is at present possessed by British companies has been one of the principal causes of making them the strongest and safest financial institutions in

the world. If Parliament really wants to benefit the British policyholders in American companies the only really effective course is to give the British policyholders the power to demand that their share of the funds shall be transferred to trustees for the British policyholders, and that they shall be allowed to form themselves into separate organisations. This point is strongly emphasised by the resignation of Mr. D. C. Haldeman, the British manager of the Mutual of New York, to which Lord Onslow referred in the House of Lords. Mr. Haldeman has the full confidence of his policyholders, and because he considers that the company shows no and because he considers that the company shows no signs of safeguarding the interests of its policyholders, he feels himself unable to continue to represent the company. A man does not voluntarily resign without very good reason a position which yields him as large a salary as Cabinet Ministers receive. In the announce-ment of his resignation Mr. Haldeman has stated that the expenses of the British branch of the Mutual are 142 per cent. of the premium income. The expenses of the company as a whole exceed 28 per cent., which means that the British policyholders are paying £14 out of every £100 for having their affairs unsatisfactorily controlled from New York. If the Select Committee can arrange by legislation or otherwise that the British policyholders of a foreign company can, by the vote of a substantial majority, claim their share of the assets and be given the right to form themselves into a separate company, then, in this particular instance, much benefit would result to the policy-holders in the United Kingdom. To legislate to this effect might however introduce a very degree or the effect might, however, introduce a very dangerous precedent; but if influence could be brought to bear upon the New York offices of the American companies to agree to such a course, it would not only benefit British policybolders but would be in accord with a widespread sentiment in America which feels that the American companies should confine their business to the American nation. The British policybolders in the American nation. The British policyholders in any one of the American companies are sufficiently numerous to form an independent British office; but if the British policyholders of the three companies could combine into one Life office under the management of Mr. Haldeman their position would be even better. Such a company would command universal confidence in this country and could scarcely fail to succeed.

THE PATRIOTIC TOUR.

A CCORDING to Mr. Birrell, there is not, never can be, such a thing as a child of the State. State is barren. She can no more enjoy the pleasures of motherhood than can the box on the table of the House of Commons. Very likely Mr. Birrell is right: anyhow "Children of the State" is an inflated sort of phrase, sentimental and often ringing false in the mouths of those who have to bandy it about; it could be well dispensed with. The State, then, cannot have children; but nobody can deny—we do not fancy the ratepayer will after a few years of Liberal Government—that she may have pupils. We are inclined to ventilate a plan which would add slightly to the number of the State's pupils. Why not finish off the education of the M.P. by sending him under the charge of Mr. Cook for a tour round the British Empire? It may be argued, why wait till he is M.P.? Why not round off his education before he is called on to legislate for the Empire? This would be a She can no more enjoy the pleasures called on to legislate for the Empire? This would be a better plan no doubt, but unfortunately it is not practicable. In this case we should have to send all the candidates round the Empire. Even unofficial candidates, freelances such as Mr. Poiden or Mr. Herbert Vivian, who have no chance of getting more than a few score of votes at the election, would have to be sent. The cost would be too large, and, obviously, half the money would be spent in vain. So the only way would be to send the politicians off in batches after their election, politicians of course of both parties; and some arrangement for pairing them might made by the House of Commons Whips. The would be no difficulty in persuading members to start on this tour. Of late years there has been a marked inclination among M.P.s to travel round the Empire. We could name many members who have patriotically undertaken the tour at their own expense. Liberals, Labour members-we should not despair even of Irish Nationalists—all are ready: only this week the press has announced that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and several of his colleagues have arranged to go on the grand tour. This is most creditable and deserves all praise, but the thing will never be done properly until the State takes the education of M.P.s in hand. The State-aided Parliamentary tourist—every M.P. a potential Padgett-this is a more stimulating idea than the fusty old proposal for the payment of members, or than free postage stamps for those who are anxious to keep in on the cheap with their constituents.

This is not a party plan. We would not introduce party feeling or bias into it. But it is surely idle to deny that one result of such a scheme of M.P. education would be to eliminate the Little Englander. Incidentally one may remark that it would indeed strengthen the present Government by adding largely to the Liberal Imperialist wing. A Byles or a Mackarness is almost unthinkable under such a system. We can hardly think of a prominent Radical who has set out on a tour through the Empire and not come back a—shall we say?—patriot. Some extraordinary conversions have been effected in this way. There is the case of one famous Radical, lately M.P., who, raging against all things flavoured with empire, went out to South Africa. He is patriot now: for none is so thorough as the pervert in politics. The "gold cure" is more effective for Little Englanders than it is for drunkards.

If politicians who go round the Empire at their own expense become strong Imperialists, they would be greater patriots than ever if the nation sent them out. Who then would be in favour of "getting rid of the colonies"? No colonies would mean no tour for politicians at the nation's expense—no feasts and toasts and

sea voyages and the homage of hospitable colonists who are always ready to do honour to the British M.P. Human nature, even the parliamentary variety of it, is not equal to such self-sacrifice as this. We cannot forget the way in which astute Sir Edward Watkin by champagne and chicken tours from the House of Commons to Dover won support for his Channel Tunnel scheme. No; we should all think imperially if the country would finish off our education by sending us at its own cost round the Empire. And it is here only that a doubt as to the excellence of the plan insinuates itself—should we not think overimperially? All Imperialists are not exactly—well, they're not Seelys. Sometimes, it must be admitted, they are more headstrong than strong in the head. They have not the sense of history, they want a little discrimination. They shout better than they think imperially. There are politicians who trot round the globe with advantage to themselves and the nation. But, alas! some there are who seem to come back merely to bore us all. There is the type of politician who keeps a very hard-facty diary of his tour, with an account of all the speeches and the population and the imports and exports, the hides and tallow of the colonies through which he has travelled. He has been known to publish these fearsome observations in a book, or he fires them off in his platform speeches and in the correspondence columns of the daily papers. The result is not illuminating. As well stay at home and be the drab Little Englander as go round the world and return an over-patriot. It would be a pity to spend money for such a result as this. We must guard against the risk of the politician going round the Empire and coming home with a swelled head. He must not go out "on his own". He must have a wise guide and tutor who will look after his education. He must be trained to think intellectually, before he tries to think imperially.

SOME BACH CELEBRATIONS.

WHY the present year in particular should be selected for Bach celebrations I do not know. Bach was born in 1685 and died in 1750; and not by any arithmetical juggling can I make the year 1906 to be the date of an ordinary jubilee of fifty years or a Jewish jubilee of seventy years or a centenary or a centenary and a half. However, the powers that be have decided the matter for us, and this year the Bach Choir will awaken from the dead and burst forth once more into song—more or less melodious, let us hope—and the Queen's Hall orchestra will give a Bach concert in the Æolian Hall. The Bach Choir I had long regarded as deep sunk far beyond any fear of resurrection; but apparently it has only been indulging in a dormouse winter sleep. Well, in Dr. Walford Davies it has a very serious musician as director. Whether he is a really good conductor I cannot say, for I have never heard him; but in spite of his doctorship he is no dry, pragmatical pedant, but a man of original thought and emotion. If he has taken his courage in both hands and weeded out the antiquated cracked, tin-pot voices that formerly made the Bach Choir the laughing stock of London—I might almost say of Europe—and if into the survivors he can infuse some of his own energy and artistic enthusiasm, he may pull off some performances that will be worth listening to. In my time the Bach Choir has never been worth listening to. The wretched choral tone, the ill-rehearsed orchestra, the casual lassitude of the conductor, Sir Charles Stanford—these made the Bach concerts a weariness to the flesh and an affliction to the spirit. Let us hope for better things.

A more promising affair altogether is the Bach concert announced by the Queen's Hall orchestra for I May. It will be directed by Mr. Henry J. Wood, who, if he has not specialised in Bach, is at any rate sufficiently eclectic to think a great composer worth conducting in a great manner and a fine enough artist to do it. We shall not be annoyed by hearing choir, orchestra and soloists drifting along lazily in different tempi and sometimes in different keys. The object of the concert is a commendable one: it is "in aid of the

fund for the purchase of Bach's house at Eisenach and the endowment of a Bach museum". Of course these museums are chiefly visited by mere idle sightseers, but as a genuine living life of Bach has yet to be written it will be well for the future historian if all possible material can be gathered together under one roof. Mr. Wood's programme is well chosen, though a fault or two can be found in it. The splendid Brandenburg concerto makes a good opening; then Mr. Edgar Speyer plays the violin chaconne which we have all so often heard travestied; after this comes a contralto song with campanella obbligato by Mr. W. J. Grader; then Mr. Francella will play the solo part in the second suite for flute and strings; and after another song the concert will end with the humorous cantata "Phœbus and Pan". This is, I say, a good programme; but we must remember what Dr. Johnson said of a dinner: "it was a good dinner, to be sure, but not a dinner to invite a man to." The programme does not represent the greatest Bach. The humour has long passed out of "Phœbus and Pan". At best it consisted mainly of topical allusions; and nowadays have all so often heard travestied; after this comes a it consisted mainly of topical allusions; and nowadays we find small amusement in the foibles and weaknesses of dead burgomasters and Bach's rivals. It seems to me a pity that Mr. Wood did not eliminate this and with the help of a small picked choir give us a perfect rendering of one of the mighty church cantatas— a thing that I, for one, have never been privileged to hear. However, as the notion was to get together an attractive programme, and as the very name of Bach scares ninety-nine out of every hundred concert-goers, perhaps an apparently light programme shows wisdom. I say apparently light; for while "Phœbus and Pan" I say apparently light; for while "Phœbus and Pan' is assuredly heavy enough, one of the church cantatas, adequately given, would be found quite as entertaining as Tschaikowsky's Pathetic symphony or a symphonic poem by Richard Strauss. Bach, the composer of the most beautiful music in the world, has yet to be known.

Composers come and composers go, and some of them, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven and Wagner, at times nearly reach Bach's height; but they rarely touch him and they never stay there long. An obscure German organist and cantor, part of his life a school-master drudge, without Handel's education or wide experience of the world, without the advantages that luck and his domineering character brought to Beethoven, without Wagner's sheer intellect of unequalled rapidity, he yet wrote music which the others would have given up all else to have written. By adopting the principle of equal temperament he made all our modern music possible. But for him we would have none of the chromatic harmonies that made "Tristan and Isolda" and the Pathetic symphony possible. By studying his suites and taking the hint casually dropped by Emanuel Bach Haydn was enabled to create the forms all composers use to-day. He wrung the utmost out of the old fugal form, leaving it so that no new thing could be said in it. He wrote some of the most glorious choruses in existence, choruses only equalled by Handel at his grandest: for instance, the opening of the Magnificat and the "Sicut locutus" can scarcely be matched. His organ music has never been approached for brilliancy, splendour, power and at times pathos and loveliness. If his songs are often rather instrumental than vocal, in his recitative he anticipated Wagner's "sing-speech": the declamation is accurate, dramatic, and the phrases and accompaniments are perfectly beautiful: the voice part then is always purely vocal: even Mozart's vocal writing seems at times instrumental and a little mechanical by the side of it. The suites are things of pure delight: no one would dream that the profoundly learned author of the "Art of Fugue" could be so light-hearted, so eminently human.

Bach's stupendous command of part-writing, the marvellous ease and security with which he guides an involved ravel of voices—these have made people afraid of him: the contrapuntist in his periwig has stood between the public and the musician-poet. Generally speaking, musicians have done their best to encourage the misunderstanding; they have laid stress on Bach's science and forgotten to mention his art. But in music, as in literature and indeed all the arts, a great technique is rarely given to a man who has not a

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great word to say; and in Bach's case certainly the great word to say; and in Bach's case certainly the scientist, the man who knows, is always the very humble servant of the artist, the man who does, who does artistic things. He seldom aims at Handel's apparent simplicity; he does not hurl about great masses of sound as Handel does in "For unto us a child is born"; but by interweaving the strands of a child is born"; but by interweaving the strands of his part-writing he gets equally great effects, and no a trained musician would guess at the scholarly skilfulness concealed, for example, in the first chorus of the Matthew Passion. In the closing chorus of the same work he drops counterpoint altogether and gives us one of the sweetest lullables in the world, a thing fit to be set by the funeral choruses in Handel's "Samson". In the "Forty-eight" he occasionally gives us displays of his skill in stretto, inversion, augmentation and diminution; but in the organ fugues we find little enough of all these. The strettos are often bogus: that is, each part takes up the theme very quickly, but does not continue it strictly. In the suites the part-writing is flexible, but there is no sign

of mathematics

One other quality in Bach repels the many. spring freshness that Haydn and Mozart, especially Mozart, and later Schubert and Wagner, brought into music we find little or none. He lived, moved and had his being in a cloistral gloom; through that gloom the light bursts at times and in an ecstasy of religious fervour he seems to see the golden gates of his Paradise and hear angel voices singing (as in the final chorale of "Wachet auf") but the light is never sweet natural sunlight and there is no scent of pure morning airs blown from the fields and woods. He dwelt far off in a world remote from the world of ordinary men; his thoughts and emotions were not our thoughts and emotions nor his ways ours; he was mystic to the core. Even when he came down from the heights—and he loved to do so at times and go to hear the "pretty Italian songs"—his speech is tinged with something that is not melancholy and not pensiveness; it has the tone of some Ancient Mariner who has seen strange things that no other eye has seen and heard mystical words spoken in no other ear. can penetrate his secret nor tear the heart out of his mystery: the most we can do is to enjoy the splendour and beauty of his music and at times catch a little of his exalted spirit! When we do not understand him, do not like him, it is not because he is dry, that is to say less than we are, but because he is greater and led a spiritual life of a fulness and richness of which we are not capable. To say that we do not like Bach is to say we do not understand him; to say we do not wish to understand him is to say we care nothing for the higher things life offers and are content with the dull, dead, prosaic existence of the humdrum work-a-day world! John F. Runciman.

A STUDY IN DEJECTION.

RIDERLESS the horse was, and with none to hold his bridle. But he waited patiently, sub-missively, there where I saw him, at the shabby corner of a certain shabby little street in Chelsea. "My beautiful, my beautiful, thou standest meekly by", as Mrs. Norton sang of the Arab steed, "with thy proudly-arched and glossy neck, thy dark and fiery Catching the eye of this other horse, I saw that such fire as may once have blazed there had long smouldered away. Chestnut though he was, he had no mettle. His chestnut coat was all dull and rough, unkempt as that of an inferior cab-horse. Of his once luxuriant mane there were but a few poor tufts now. His saddle was torn and weather-stained. The one stirrup that dangled therefrom was red with rust.

I never saw in any creature a look of such unutterable dejection. Dejection, in the most literal sense of the word, indeed was his. He had been cast down. He had fallen from higher and happier things. With his "arched neck", and with other points which not neglect nor ill-usage could rob of their old grace, he had kept something of his fallen day about him. In the window of the little shop outside which he stood were things that seemed to match him—things appealing

to the sense that he appealed to. A tarnished French mirror, a strip of faded carpet, some rows of battered, tattered books, a few cups and saucers that had erst been riveted and erst been dusted—all these, in a gallimaufry of other languid odds and ends, seen through this mud-splashed window, silently echoed the silent misery of the horse. They were remembering Zion. They had been beautiful once, and expensive, and well cared for, and admired, and coveted. now They had, at least, the consolation of being indoors. Public laughing-stock though they were, they had a barrier of glass between themselves and the irreverent world. To be warm and dry, too, was something. thing. Piteous, they could yet afford to pity the horse. He was more ludicrously, more painfully, misplaced than they. A real blood-horse that has done his work is rightly left in the open air—turned out into some sweet meadow or paddock. It would be cruel to make him spend his declining years inside a house, where no grass is. Is it less cruel that a fine old rocking-horse than the pursery out into the open air, should be thrust from the nursery out into the open air, upon the pavement?

Perhaps some child had just given the horse a con-temptuous shove in passing. For he was rocking gently when I chanced to see him. Nor did he cease to rock, with a slight creak upon the pavement, so long as I watched him! A particularly black and bitter north wind was blowing round the corner of the street. Perhaps it was this that kept the horse in motion. Boreas himself, invisible to my mortal eyes, may have been astride the saddle, lashing the tired old horse to this futile activity. But no, I think rather that the poor thing was rocking of its own accord, rocking to attract my attention. It saw in me a possible purattract my attention. It saw in me a possible pur-chaser. It wanted to show me that it was still sound in wind and limb. Had I a small son at home? showy, first-hand young brutes, on which no fond parent ought to risk his offspring's bones; but a sound, steady-going, well-mannered old hack with never a spark of vice in him! Such was the message that I read in the glassy eye fixed on me. The nostril of faded scarlet seemed for a moment to dilate and quiver. The nostril of At last, at last, was someone going to inquire his

price?

Once upon a time, in a far-off, fashionable toy-shop, Once upon a time, in a far-off, fashionable toy-shop, his price had been prohibitive; and he, the central attraction behind the gleaming shop-window, had plumed himself on his expensiveness. He had been in no hurry to be bought. It had seemed to him a good thing to stand there motionless, majestic, day after day, far beyond the reach of average purses, and having in his mien something of the frigid nobility of the horses on the Parthenon frieze, with nothing at all of their unreality. A coat of real chestnut hair, glossy, glorious! From end to end of the Parthenon frieze not one of the horses had that. chestnut hair, glossy, glorious! From end to end of the Parthenon frieze not one of the horses had that. From end to end of the toy-shop that exhibited him not from end to end of the toy-shop that exhibited him not one of the horses was thus graced. Their flanks were mere wood, painted white, with arbitrary blotches of grey here and there. Miserable creatures! It was difficult to believe that they had souls. No wonder they were cheap, and "went off", as the shopman said, so quickly; whilst he stayed grandly on, the cynosure of eyes that dared not hope for him. Into bondage they went off, those others, and would be bondage they went off, those others, and would be worked to death, doubtless, by brutal little boys. When, one fine day, a lady was actually not shocked by the price demanded for him, his pride was brown paper and hoisted to the roof of a four-wheeler, he faced the future fiercely. Who was this lady that her child should dare bestride him? He was determined that the child should not stay long in saddle. The child must be thrown—badly—even though it was his seventh birthday. But this wicked intention vanished while the child danced around him in joy Never yet had so many compliments and wonder. been showered on him. Here, surely, was more the manner of a slave than of a master. And how lightly the child rode him, with never a tug or a kick! And oh, how splendid it was to be flying thus through the air! Horses were made to be ridden; and he had never before savoured the true joy of life, for he had never

known his own strength and fleetness. Forward! Backward! Faster, faster! To floor! To ceiling! Regiments of leaden soldiers watched his wild career. Noah's quiet, sedentary beasts gaped up at him in wonderment—as tiny to him as the gaping cows in the wonderment—as they to him as the gaping cows in the fields are to you when you pass by in an express train. This was life indeed! He remembered Katafalto—remembered Eclipse and the rest nowhere. Aye, thought he, and even thus must Black Bess have rejoiced along the road to York. And Bucephalus, skimming under Alexander the plains of Asia, must have had just this glorious sense of freedom. Only less so! Not Pegasus himself can have flown more swiftly. Pegasus, at last, became a constellation in the sky. "Some day", reflected the rocking-horse, when the ride was over, "I, too, shall die; and five stars will appear on the nursery ceiling".

Alas for the vanity of equine ambition! I wonder by what stages this poor beast came down in the world. Did the little boy's father go bankrupt, leaving the horse to be sold in a "lot" with the other toys? the horse to be sold in a "lot" with the other toys? Or was the horse merely given away, when the little boy grew up, to a poor but procreative relation, who anon became poorer? I should like to think that it had been mourned. But I fear that whatever mourning there may have been for it must have been long ago discarded. The poor animal did not look as if it had been ridden in any recent decade. It looked as if it had almost abandoned the hope of ever being ridden again. It was but hoping against hope now, as it stood rocking there in the bleak twilight. Bright, warm nurseries were for younger, happier horses. Still, it went on rocking, to show me that it could

The more sentimental a man is, the less is he helpful: the more loth is he to cancel the cause of his emotion. I did not buy the horse.

A few days later, passing that way, I wished to renew my emotion; but lo! the horse was gone. Had some finer person than I bought it—towed it to the haven where it would be? Likelier, it had but been relegated to some mirky recess of the shop. . . . I hope it has room to rock there.

MAX BEERBOHM.

THE UNIVERSITY CREWS.

N EITHER of the University crews of this year is likely to make a name for itself in the history of the Boat-race as an example of excellence or the reverse. Cambridge row in very poor style but are fairly well together; they have, however, a certain amount of uniform leg-drive in the middle of the stroke. Oxford have a better body-swing, but are very slow in getting hold of the beginning of the stroke, and are not quite together. In the early days of training the Oxford crew appeared to have every prospect of developing into a first-class combination.

They had plenty of good, strong material, and a They had plenty of good, strong material, and a capable stroke, and in spite of the inclusion of an exceptionally light man at "7", they gave the impression of being a powerful, if somewhat ponderous, crew. Just before the commencement of strict training, Mr. Evans, the President, was out of the boat for ten days on account of a sharp attack of influ enza, an event which had a disastrous effect on the rowing both of Mr. Evans and his crew. The crew are only now beginning to recover their form. They have a long and fairly steady swing forward, but they never give the appearance of having that balance and control over their bodies over the stretchers which is one of the essentials of first-class rowing. They are extremely slow in getting hold of the beginning of the stroke, with the result that the boat slips away before they can properly apply their work. The result of these faults is a stroke of these faults is a stroke of the stroke these faults is that in spite of their general uniformity of style, they have been unable to get really together or to get pace on their boat which is at all commensurate with the undoubted strength which they expend. They have however made some improvement during the last few days, and if during the remaining week of practice they succeed in gaining a minute fraction of

second at the beginning of each stroke they may develop from a rather slow crew into a fairly fast one. Mr. Bucknall has only one of the two qualifica-tions of a first-class stroke. He has admirable judg-ment in a race and gets the last ounce out of the men behind him. The other qualification which he lacks is that of so rowing in practice that his crew develop the greatest possible pace that can be got from the material of which it is composed. A good stroke uses his head not only in the race but from the first day of training; he thinks not only of himself and of his own form and work but of his crew, and en-deavours to cultivate that style which will enable the men behind him to get together, to row long and to row hard. Mr. Gladstone at seven is a good time-keeper, and a neat and effective oar for his weight. None of the big men in the middle of the boat shows that powerful blade-work that one would expect from men of their size; they all try hard, but the fatal lack of beginning in the crew at present prevents them from making really effective use of their strength.

The course of training in the Cambridge crew has run ore smoothly than that of Oxford. They have not more smoothly than that of Oxford. They have not been hampered by illness or accident and have rowed together in the same order almost from the outset. Their earlier efforts were not very inspiring to their supporters, but the long period which they have rowed together has given a uniformity to their rowing which makes them go much faster than their style of rowing deserves. During the last three years there has crept into Cambridge rowing a style which is not in accordance with the best traditions. The fault really consists in an exaggerated idea of the importance of lear work, a pagent of hadronized and a failure to make leg-work, a neglect of body-swing and a failure to make proper use of the weight; it results in complete loss of pace when the leg muscles begin to tire after a mile or cambridge crews of 1904 and 1905. The present crew are short forward, they are very gentle at the beginning, they give a tremendous thrust with their legs and hoick with their bodies in the middle of the stroke, their finish is short and they feather under water. At times they travel fairly fast owing to the fact that the hoick is simultaneous. They have an excellent ship which runs well between the strokes in spite of the fact that their style of rowing makes her dance up and down while the blades are in the water. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of absolutely simultaneous action in eight-oared rowing, and the history of aquatics, and especially that of Henley Regatta, abounds in examples of the victory of crews, which have rowed in inferior style but have been well together, over crews which have applied their strength in a more scientific manner but have been lacking in uniformity. The only danger which our best crews have at present to fear from foreign competitors for the Grand Challenge Cup lies in the fact that our visitors, especially those from America, almost make rowing their profession for the time being, and devote so much time to their training that when they arrive at Henley they are almost mechanical in their uniformity. Our own men are amateurs in the true sense; they only devote to rowing such time as they can spare from their ordinary occupations. The mere fact that after a few weeks' practice they have hitherto been able to hold their own against these semi-professional foreign combinations demonstrates, beyond possibility of dis-pute, the superiority of the true English style of rowing with its long body-swing and its scientific use of the weight as well as of muscular strength. It cannot be said that the Cambridge crew of this year neglect be said that the Cambridge crew of this year neglect the use of their bodies to anything like the same extent as the foreign crews. They do however appear to rely too strongly on a sudden thrust with the legs in the middle of the stroke instead of trying to combine the use of legs and body from beginning to end of the stroke. It is in this respect that their rowing is so much inferior to that of Oxford Their uniformity which is their one strong point reflects considerable credit upon Mr. Stewart, their stroke. Mr. Stewart's style is not a style to be copied; he is short forward and he clips the finish, but he rows in such a decisive and he clips the finish, but he rows in such a decisive manner that it is not difficult for a crew to get together behind him. He is in fact what is generally known as

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a stroke who is easy to follow. Mr. Bucknall appears to be exactly the reverse. He fails to mark the beginning and finish of the stroke in such a manner as to enable his crew to apply their work simultaneously. He has a powerful and painstaking crew behind

him, but they have hitherto failed to get together.

The time tests over various portions of the course have, owing to the variations of tide and wind, been more than usually untrustworthy. If they have shown anything it is that both crews are slow compared with average University crews and that Oxford are rather the slower of the two. The result of the race depends almost entirely upon the progress of the Oxford crew during the next few days. Cambridge are not likely to improve much. They cannot alter their whole style of improve much. They cannot alter their whole style of rowing and they are already as good at that style of rowing as they can expect to be. If Oxford, as they did last year, fall together at the beginning of the stroke during the last few days of practice they may win as easily as they did on that occasion; if they fail in this respect they will be an example of the fact that a heavy crew when it is slow, is very slow indeed.

BRIDGE.

THE PLAY OF THE DEALER.

WE have now nearly exhausted the hints that can be given for the guidance of the dealer in managing the two hands which are under his charge. little more than hints, because each hand is so different, and the best methods to be employed vary so widely according to the placing of the cards, that it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules for the dealer to observe. As these hints, such as they are, have been spread over several articles, it will be well

to summarise them before going any further.

Let us first consider the No Trump hands. When the dealer, or his dummy, has declared No Trumps, a great deal depends upon the suit originally opened, and upon the value of the card led. Is there any bridge and upon the value of the card led. Is there any bridge player who has not experienced a feeling of relief, when he has made a No Trump, possibly a rather light one, and he is not at once attacked in his weak suit? Apropos of this point, one often hears a player say, when a No Trump has gone wrong, "It was bad luck being attacked in that suit", but what did he expect? One's adversaries are not in the habit of opening one's best suit, and when the dealer has declared No Trumps, with pronounced weakness in one suit he must Trumps, with pronounced weakness in one suit, he must be quite prepared for that suit being opened originally. It is more than possible, it is probable. There is no bad luck about it, it is quite a natural probability, and it is a contingency for which he should be thoroughly prepared.

Directly the first card is led, before playing a card from dummy, the dealer should spend a few moments considering his two hands, observing where they will dovetail, how they will combine with each other, how many tricks he can be certain of winning, and in which with his principal danger lies and he should then and suit his principal danger lies, and he should, then and there, form a definite plan of campaign, offensive or defensive, as the case may be. That is the main point to be remembered, to form a definite plan of campaign and to stick to it, unless the placing of the cards forces him to alter it. At least half the mistakes which are made by the dealer in playing a No Trump are made by playing too quickly to the first trick, before he has properly realised

the capabilities of the two hands.

He should note carefully the exact value of the card originally led, and should apply the Eleven Rule to it, so as to be able to form an estimate as to how the cards in that suit are divided. If he has a master card of it, he should not be in a hurry to stop the suit, unless he is so strong that there is a chance of small or grand slam, but should rather allow the suit to be continued until the third player is exhausted and has no card of it left to return to his partner, then he can finesse to any extent in other suits against the original leader, knowing that the third hand will have to open a fresh suit when he gets in. Even with king and one small one in durance, and two small one is his owner. one in durnmy, and ace and two small ones in his own hand, it is generally wise for the dealer to give away the first trick so as effectually to block the suit.

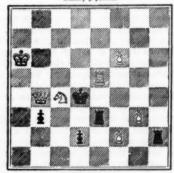
When the dealer can only stop the suit originally opened once, the game is very different from when he can stop it twice or even more. In the latter case he can afford to take a doubtful finesse and to go for a big game, but in the former case he must go at once game, but in the former case he must go at once for his own strong suit, and try to win the game, or to get as near to it as possible, before the opponents have a chance of bringing in their suit.

As a general rule, the dealer should go at once for

the suit in which he has the greatest numerical strength in his two hands combined, being careful to lead as often as possible from weakness up to strength, so as to utilise any possible finesses, and he should finesse against the third player rather than against the first player, for the reason that the first player, being marked with four or five of the suit originally opened, is less likely to hold strength in other suits. A frequent combination, familiar to all bridge players, is when the dealer holds ace, knave, 10, and others of a suit and the dummy has king and two small ones. In this case the dealer should lead the knave from his own hand, and, if the queen is not put on second hand, he should win the trick with dummy's king and take the finesse the other way. Occasionally, with this lead, the second hand will hesitate for some time, obviously whether to cover the knave or not, and will not do so; when this occurs, the dealer is perfectly entitled to take advantage of the information vouchsafed to him, and to finesse the knave, although he had not intended to do so. It is utterly opposed to the etiquette of bridge to take any advantage of information that one's partner may give one, however unintentionally such information may have been given, but there is no reason why even the most scrupulous of bridge players should not take every advantage of information given by an adversary, whether it is given by obvious hesitation, or by injudiwhether it is given by obvious nestation, or by injudicious remarks, or in any other of the many ways in which it is, at times, volunteered. There are players who have pronounced mannerisms at the bridge table, and to act on information derived from such mannerisms on the part of a partner amounts almost to dishonesty, but to refuse to make use of information derived from an opponent's mannerisms amounts quite to Quixotism.

CHESS.

By F. DEDRLE. PROBLEM 73. Black, 5 piec



White, 7 pieces.

White to mate in three moves.

Solutions to above will be duly acknowledged.

KEY TO PROBLEM 71: 1. B-RS. If BxP, 2. R-RI, &c. KEY TO PROBLEM 72: I. Q-R6.

INTERNATIONAL 'VARSITY CHESS.

We note with satisfaction the resumption of the chess matches between the leading Universities of England and the United States, the cable being again employed last Saturday to convey the moves across the ocean. The use of this agent was attended with complete success, reflecting the greatest credit on all who were responsible for the arrangements.

Undoubtedly the main condition making for success on the present occasion was the stipulation that the match must be finished in one day. By reducing the factor of physical endurance to its minimum, the quality of the play is materially enhanced; this was strikingly manifested in the relatively high character of the play last Saturday. With an accelerated time limit for the moves, consent to the adjudication of unfinished games, and a little more readiness for players to resign when they are fairly beaten, we may be sanguine of an early resumption of the cable matches between repre-sentative English and American teams. This used to be regarded as the leading chess event of the year, and it may be so again if arrangements can be made, as in the 'Varsity match, to restrict the use of the cable to one day instead of to two successive working days.

The following is one of the games played last Saturday in the above match.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT.

White	Black	White	Black		
Hanning	Kirkpatrick	Hanning	Kirkpatrick		
(England)	(U.S.A.)	(England)	(U.S.A.)		
1. P-Q4	P-04	2. P-OB4			

This may be the best of the standard openings, it is certainly the one which is most popular with the masters. It is, however, often played by others merely because it is in vogue. The masters, in most cases, have arrived at it by a process of selection, and although have arrived at it by a process of selection, and although they may have discarded one opening after another they have gained in knowledge in the process. Before Steinitz put his faith in the Queen's Gambit he was already the champion of the world and never hesitated to play genuine gambits which modern players are prone to dismiss summarily as unplayable. The popularity of this opening in the present match is no doubt due to the anxiety of the players to avoid even a minimum of risk. But that is a mistake: what might be risky risk. But that is a mistake; what might be risky against masters is not necessarily so against players of lesser rank.

4. P-K4 2. . . . P×P 3. Kt-QB3 Kt-KB3

To accept the pawn, to return it and then to consent to a cramped game is playing altogether into the hands of the opponent. P-K4 instead would apparently equalise matters. For instance, if $P\times P$, then $Q\times Qch$, $K\times Q$, and $Kt-Kt_5$ regains the pawn.

5. P-K5	Kt-Q4	10. Castles	P-KR4
5. P-K5 6. B×P	Kt × Kt	11. Q-K4	Kt-B1
7. P×Kt	B-K2	12. R-Q1	$P-QB_3$
8. Q-Kt4	P-KKt3	13. B-Kt3	
O Kt Ka	W. Oa	5	

This quiet move reveals the player of promise. Having placed the requisite number of pieces in strategical positions he prepares to break through the centre. As will be seen, every move is accurately timed and there is no relaxation in the attack except to bring up the reserve forces.

13	B-Q2	20. QR-B1	Q-Kt2
14. P-QB4	R-QKt1	21. Kt × Kt	B×Kt
15. P-Q5	BP×P	22. Q-Kt5 ch	K-Bi
16. P x P	Q-Br	23. B × B	P×B
17. B-K3	P-Kt3	24. R-Q7	Q-Ks
18. Kt-Q4	P×P	25. R × B	R-QI
In OVOP	Kt Ka	•	

If black takes the rook, then R-B7 ch followed by -Q7 wins immediately. White has certainly shown distinct ability in every department of the game.

26. R-Q7 $R \times R$ 27. Q×R

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FAILURE OF THE VOLUNTARY SYSTEM.

IV .- ONE ARMY OR TWO?

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,-The law of simplicity demands that we should have only one army. But the best of principles may be pushed too far, and in the present case there are powerful arguments in favour of two armies. Home and foreign service are carried on under such totally different circumstances as to constitute practically different services, and many evils arise from our maintaining only one army.

For years our home army has been enfeebled, I might say wrecked, by being transformed virtually into a depôt for regiments on foreign service. Again, a a depôt for regiments on foreign service. Again, a large proportion of our recruits and soldiers are too young and too weakly for foreign service, and the debility of the main body is gradually extending towards its extremities. "We have been obliged", said Lord Lansdowne in 1897, "to fill up battalions which ought to be at home with young soldiers and send them to the Mediterranean, thus filling our garrisons there with troops unfit to take the field". We were in fact trading then, as we are trading now, upon the forbearance of our neighbours. our neighbours.

It is impossible to work a foreign army with short service, but we ought not to saddle our home army with the evils inseparable from long or medium service, which I pointed out in my last letter. From inevitable necessity we injure, more or less, the industrial career of the 100,000 men of our foreign army by enlisting them for some period of medium service, but why wantonly inflict the same damage on the 100,000 men of the home army? Two wrongs do not make a right. The service of the foreign army must be long or medium; the service of the home army need be neither the one nor the other, and if a system of short service can be found which will not prejudice the men's future career, it ought to be neither the one nor the other.

In determining the nature of the foreign army we must select that term of service and those inducements which are most likely to produce the best supply of recruits. Experience and common sense suggest long service of eighteen to twenty-one years, with a pension of at least a shilling a day, as the conditions which will produce the desired result. The pension list, although heavy, would be less than half what it was when long service was universal throughout the carry. army. There would be a great saving in the matter of reliefs owing to the long-service system, and there would practically be no waste from desertion. The foreign army would be fed by its own depôts, not by the home army, which would be based on a different principle. Only in the case of grave emergency would any portion of the home army be sent out of England to the support of the foreign army. If the supply of recruits for the latter showed signs of falling permanently short, we should be obliged to increase the inducements to enlist. No other course would be open

This plan is open to many objections, it may be said. It is so, unfortunately. The man is yet unborn who can frame an unobjectionable scheme for any large reform. Our present one army system is open to as many and far more serious objections.—Yours obediently,
H. W. L. Hime, Lieut.-Col.

PROTECTION FOR BRITISH SEAMEN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

69 St. Philip Street, Queen's Road, Battersea, S.W.

SIR,-The thanks of British seamen are due to you for your admirable article upon their gradual disappearance in our mercantile marine, and in the debatable area of economic questions: there appears to be, for-tunately, no difference of opinion when stating this as a grave national peril. Their maximum number was reached in 1893 with 186,628 men and the percentage of foreigners, exclusive of Lascars, has risen from 9'08 per cent. in this period to 22 80 in 1902. With the change from sails to steam there has been a great decrease in apprenticeship; in 1845, 15,704 apprentices were enrolled, in 1901 only 1,242 and in that year there were only 5,543 in all under indentures, and it is doubtful whether the recommendations of the departmental committee of the Board of Trade appointed to inquire into the manning of British merchant ships will materially increase their numbers. The reserve of capable seamen is smaller year by year and at a time when even our small sailing vessels are being used as training grounds for foreign youths, our great shipping

companies could well emulate the example of their German competitors. The Norddeutscher Lloyd not only provide training ships for their youthful compatriots but reply to aliens desiring employment "Our The Norddeutscher Lloyd not company being a German one employs only Germans in its service". But what is patriotism to our shipowners or steamship directors compared with increased dividends? The wages offered to an able seaman on sailing vessels are £3 a month together with his keep, of course while at sea he has no opportunities of spending, but 15s. a week is, for all that, as Lord Brassey says, a very low wage for employment requiring skill and involving danger. The reason the employers give for preferring the foreign seaman, is, that he is a pattern of obedience and sobriety, whilst the British sailor is frequently represented as the scum of the cities. The Marquis of Graham's statistics of crime among seamen in the Port of Glasgow prove this statement to be an utter fallacy. "Never", to quote him, "was a delusion more hard to blot out from the public mind, not because the man in the street is unwilling to hear the truth of the case, but because the matter has never been properly thrashed because the matter has never been properly thrashed out or given unreservedly to the country. The British seaman, man for man, is more sober and amenable to discipline than the foreign seaman". Undoubtedly the crux of the matter is that it is a more profitable investment to ship the foreigner in preference to the Britisher. It is difficult for the ordinary mind to grasp the principles which underlie such an inconsistent policy that prohibits the employment of foreigners in responsible positions in the Royal Mail Steamship Company and adopts a laissez-faire attitude to all other steamship companies. To be logical this principle, which appears in the new supplementary charter should be applied all round. Surely it is not charter should be applied all round. Surely it is not necessary to digest a treatise on logic to arrive at this conclusion. It may be of interest to note in reference to the fishing industry, that although the East Coast is pre-eminently the fishing coast of Great Britain, foreign trawlers are still granted privileges in the waters of the Moray Firth, which are denied to our own. The granting to foreigners of British pilotage certificates is not only a shameful injustice to British pilotage to the country in time of pilots but a source of danger to the country in time of war. The apathy of officialism passes all understanding. The policy of the Board of Trade remains "quieta non movere" while pilotage certificates for the Thames accelerate the promotion of officers in the German naval reserve. It would be difficult to name a European country where toleration is carried to greater limits of absurdity.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, H. G. HILLS.

"THE SAD AND SORROWFUL UNION."

To the Editor of the Saturday Review.

Clifton Lodge, Wardie, Edinburgh,
24 March, 1906.

SIR,—The reviewer in your columns of "Scotland and the Union" is of course entitled to contrast my book unfavourably with that of Hill Burton, whom he has elevated to a post-mortem professorship, and may be justified in so doing; but, since he says that I have "arrived at no novel conclusion" and discovered no "new fact", I hope, in justice to a work which has involved more than two years' almost continuous labour, you will allow me space to make a brief reply.

With a view to supplementing, as well as verifying, previous histories, I sought to indicate the means by which the Crown continued to control Parliament after the Committee of the Articles had been abolished; to explain the apparent paradox that Paterson, an enthusiastic Darienist, promoted a Scottish East India Company; to trace the evolution of the Country Party through its various phases—"Williamite", Jacobite, Nationalist, and Squadrone; to estimate the character and policy of leading statesmen and Churchmen; to show that the fate of the Union rested with the Squadrone and the Church, and to unfold minutely the motives and action of each. Will the reviewer kindly say where he finds these things explained—I might almost say, alluded to—in Burton's book? As to "new

facts", by which he seems to mean facts not consistent with those of his "professor", Burton puts Campbell of Fanab at the head of an imaginary naval expedition, mentions no difference between the first Act of Security and the second, calls Roxburgh a "nominal" leader of the Squadrone, represents the Wine Act of 1703 as an Opposition, not a Government, measure, the Scots as having no free trade with England till the Protectorate, the Highland chiefs as wielding hereditary jurisdictions. Well, on these points and many more, which are not matters of opinion, I differ from Burton, and his book, not being in any way the basis of mine, was not "conspicuously mentioned". In his historical sketch the reviewer appears to have reached some "novel conclusions" of his own—at least so I regard his statement that the Scots, after the Revolution, insisted "practically on the supremacy of Church over State". True, I have the misfortune to be "neither Jacobite nor Episcopalian". Burton was the latter—perhaps the reviewer is both.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WM. LAW MATHIESON.

[Our correspondent is of course entitled to prefer himself to Burton: we on the other hand prefer Burton to him.—ED. S.R.]

THE ALDWYCH SITE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

12 Haymarket, London, W.

12 Haymarket, London, W. 27 March, 1906.

SIR,—May I be allowed most earnestly to plead, if not too late, for a hearing by those responsible for the design of the proposed buildings of a French syndicate on this spot? We learn that the style is to be that of the French Renaissance, or in other words, as has already been so truly stated, a French imitation of an Italian imitation of the architectural forms of ancient Rome and Athens! Could anything be more absolutely deplorable or distressing for so magnificent a site, which now presents itself for a splendid display of the finest English architecture, an opportunity which has not occurred for so large an area and historical a centre in London, for about two centuries?

Yours, &c. WALTER STEPHENS.

IRISH FOLK MUSIC.

To the Editor of the Saturday Review.

London, 24 March, 1906.

SIR,—Mr. Runciman's statement that the Irish are "forgetting their own priceless heritage in music" is, as he will no doubt be glad to hear, not quite so correct now as it would have been if made a few years ago. The Irish Folk Song Society has during the last two years done a good deal to collect and preserve the traditional airs which he so justly values. As for Irish concerts in London, the Gaelic League, though perhaps open to the criticism that in its festivals it sometimes subordinates musical merit to "patriotic" sentiment, has at any rate fought with very marked success against the influence of the "latest music-hall ribaldries and vulgarities". Perhaps one may ask how Mr. Runciman decided that the people who chanted music-hall songs in the London streets on S. Patrick's Day were Irish? Attendance at a nominally Irish concert proves nothing now that every cockney wears the clover, and it is as inconceivable that those many Irish people who went to the Gaelic League's concerts at Covent Garden should have offended Mr. Runciman's ear in this par Irish concerts should have been singing in the streets at all.

But it is perfectly true that a long period of neglect has made the recovery of Irish folk music a difficult task, and the undesigned support given by your musical critic to the aims of the Irish Folk Song Society is very welcome.

The Gaelic League, by the way, seems to take exactly the same view of Thomas Moore as Mr. Runciman, but I (not being one of them) venture to warn him that it would be almost as dangerous for him to tell Gaelic Leaguers that "Moore is always

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regarded as the representative Irish poet" as it would be to indulge in his favourite topic were he to find himself dining at the mess of a Highland regiment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, M. C. SETON.

DR. REICH ON ENGLISHWOMEN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, 20 March, 1906.

Sir,—As a deeply interested reader of the SATURDAY REVIEW and a very timid trespasser on your valuable space, I venture to ask for the opinion of some of your readers most qualified to give one on the all-important subject of woman. A few days ago a lecture on this subject was given by the famous Hungarian, Dr. Reich, whose discourses on Plato at Claridge's have lately attracted so much attention—at least from the "smart set"—and I must admit it certainly did not tend to raise one's opinion of one's own sex. Dr. Reich commenced by an allusion to the physiology of men and women, which he maintained is never considered seriously enough, otherwise we should not have the appalling marriages which are so common in England—i.e. a man of fifty or sixty years of age mated with a girl of twenty. This, he said, was not tolerated abroad, where a man was considered old and out of the question at forty to forty-five. Surely this is disproved only too often in France, where "les mariages de convenance" are so frequent, and nearly always entail the sacrifice of some young girl to an old man of noble family. Dr. Reich says that woman is one of the five causes of history, and yet that we, duly aware of this dignified position, do not take ourselves seriously enough or force our men to do so either. Apparently the women of France come as near as possible to Dr. Reich's idea of perfection; they are, he says, dignified, energetic, thrifty and supremely tactful and dissimilar to all other nations. We are told that the Greeks and Romans came to grief because they misplaced their women and failed to realise their proper position.

Romans came to grief because they misplaced their women and failed to realise their proper position.

Dr. Reich has no sympathy with the "fearful crazes" we take up, under which heading he places temperance, woman's suffrage &c. and considers that causes such as these spoil us for the proper work we should be doing. Altogether he has I fear a very poor idea of English motherhood, as he quoted a case of his own when at one time a large number of young English students were under his tuition, some of them even living in his own house, and not one of them had had the slightest interest shown in him by his own mother, either in illness, or success, or whatever fate held in store for him. This statement seems incredible and why, if we women are of this calibre, has the common saying "tied to his mother's apron-strings" survived? I have always thought that an almost perfect motherhood in its pure and unselfish affection was most certainly illustrated by the women of our country, but even this comforting reflection was wrested from me. Dr. Reich concedes that our small empire, with its vast Imperial interests that spread so far around, has many advantages over other countries that are more concentrated empires, and that our women ought to find their right place and not be crippled or bound down in any way. That we ape men and thereby somewhat destroy the ideal of true womanhood must, I fear, be admitted, but that does not prevent some of us from attempting to use what softening or sympathetic influence we may possess wherewith to round off the "angular quality" that Dr. Reich finds so very marked in the Englishman.

We were told that though woman is the dominant power in America she has not found her proper place, and this is shown by the alarming figures furnished by the Doctor with reference to divorce in that country. The numbers read something like two thousand divorces to three and a quarter millions of the population. We should, it seems, strive to unite the graces of Rome and Athens with a high intellectuality and true femininity, and endeavour to overcome our Spartan-like tendencies. Perhaps some of your readers will kindly enlighten me as to how this state of perfection is to be obtained? and whether our condition is really as alarming as it appears to be when seen from a foreigner's point of view.

Yours truly,

Q. G.

REVIEWS.

DON PORFI.

"Porfirio Diaz." By Mrs. Alec Tweedie. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1906. 21s. net.

THE apotheosis of a man during his life is always rather a risky experiment; but Mrs. Alec Tweedie makes her case out (from her point of view) tolerably well and fairly lands her mortal in Olympus, with his halo represented by a "poblano" hat. She has had, on one side, exceptional opportunities of seeing Mexico, for, as she says in her introduction, "armed with introductions... from north to south, from east to west I penetrated, and when journeys into wild parts where white people were practically unknown might prove dangerous, General Diaz gave me an escort of soldiers". The phrase "white people" is ambiguous from a friend of the Mexican people. Mrs. Tweedie goes on to say that "... a party of forty soldiers, twenty-two gentlemen and myself rode for ten consecutive days through the mountains, visiting ancient Aztec temples and stopping at large coffee, sugar or tobacco estates by the way". Are we to understand that these estates were entirely conducted by Indians? Or does Mrs. Tweedie exclude all Mexicans from the category of "white people"? These are the phrases, that no doubt, without intending, wound and irritate, and make the name of Briton unsavoury abroad. It would have been so easy to say "foreigners", for of course no one is really white but the Englishman. This little slip apart, the whole book is written in an appreciative spirit as regards the subject of it, the country and its inhabitants. Though it is pleasant to see a country under the conditions to which we have referred, and it is possible to penetrate into places to which the humbler traveller rarely can attain, the shield has also its obverse side. For in such a manner it is impossible to get to know anything of the people, who naturally seeing forty-five soldiers, twenty-two gentlemen, and an attractive foreign lady suddenly appear amongst them, are on their best behaviour all the time. In fact both in the present work and in the previous book on Mexico by the same author, carefully written and well turned out as are both publications, alth

If General Porfirio Diaz (never once throughout the book is his familiar appellation of "Don Porfi" so much as breathed) has an order in his gift, such as the "Eagle of Chapultepec", "The Golden Ahuehuete", or the like, he should bestow it incontinently upon the writer of his life. If Mexico does not afford an order (which we doubt) that of "El Busto" can be procured from Venezuela on most reasonable terms. The facts seem all correct, and it is true that a great change has certainly come over Mexico in the last twenty years. We who write these poor lines remember riding to Chapultepec some five and twenty years ago, and having taken a short cut coming back, through a dark little park, being hailed by two suspicious-looking men, who tried to sidle up their horses, and only sheered off when (having just come from Western Texas) we drew our rifle from the sling, with a wild flourish, but with a quaking heart. In those days tram-cars coming back from bull fights were often robbed, and the stage coaches not infrequently arrived at such towns as Oaxaca (not pronounced O-ah-uack-ah—it looks a little like Tahitan transliterated as on page 2), with all the passengers stripped to their skins. True that the "road-agents" usually left some newspapers; but in those days the newspaper in Mexico was little bigger than a pocket-handkerchief, and the paper was ridiculously bad. Certainly it is pleasing in these days when we demonstrate our equality by being all a little better than our neighbours to meet with genuine enthusiasm about a subject or a man. Enthusiasm, without doubt, exudes from every page

and paragraph of Mrs. Tweedie's work, and had she only brought discretion to her task, she might have given to the public a book as solid as it undoubtedly given to the public a book as solid as it undoubtedly is interesting. Nobody doubts that General Porfirio Diaz is a remarkable and even a great man, but at one swoop to dub him "the greatest figure in modern history" is to expose him to some ridicule. To compare him, even by implication, with Garibaldi is to belittle him needlessly, though he is undoubtedly a strong and a capable ruler and a born general. Even in Spanish America his actual achievement nelses here. in Spanish America his actual achievement pales before that of Bolivar and perhaps is inferior to that of San Martin. The expulsion of the few foreign mercenaries of Maximilian is as nothing to the defeat of the veteran soldiers of Spain, armed with all the prestige of centuries of rule. Diaz found a country in disorder, and full of highway robbers, its finances in ruin, and its frontiers open and unguarded. After some five and twenty years of rule, he has cleansed the corruption of the finances, made his frontiers quite strong enough to protect his country against probable invasion, and by the institution of the admirable police force known as "Los Rurales" he has made the high roads as safe as those of most European countries. That is an honourable record, and Mexico owes him much for work. But there is a per contra account. Whereas once the highway robber with his blunderbuss, his lazo and his machete, robbed the poor upon the roads, though not objecting to the rich when a good chance came to his hand, the sweater now robs all the world. Though the system that prevailed of paying workers at the haciendas in kind is pretty nearly done away with, the workers in the towns are subject to the same conditions as those of Europe, which are raising up strong and protesting Labour Parties in every European State.

Beyond these criticisms, which are after all rather political than literary, we have only praise both for the subject and for the book. Porfirio Diaz is a man to conjure with in both Americas. If Mrs. Tweedie had confined herself to saying that he was the greatest personality that North America has seen for fifty years, we should be with her heartily, for Don Porfirio has fought a foreign foe, and did not gain his laurels entirely by the slaughter of his fellow-countrymen, as did the heroes of the great war between the North and South. As honest, and much more dignified than Lincoln, he has those virtues of simplicity, sincerity and modesty almost essential in a great ruler of a democratic State. His adventures read more like a story of the Spanish "capa y espada" school, than sober realism. No ruler of a State in Europe, or for that matter in America, has had a swim for life by night amongst the sharks. His seven days' cooping-up in the box-sofa of the purser's cabin of the ss. "City of Havana" is the kind of thing that every ruler ought to pass through before mounting on a throne. In Constitutional States it might be modified, and a few days at large amongst the sewers of the capital

imposed instead.

The story of the luckless Maximilian and the French filibusters who sent him to his fate and then abandoned him, has many times been told. But it has never, to our knowledge, been written from the dictation of one of the chief actors, and yet so sympathetically to all concerned, as in the present book. The dreary marchings and countermarchings, the senseless slaughters, and the names of "illustrissimi" whose only title to be mentioned is the amount of blood they spilled, is mercifully left out, an example which might be imitated in every history except those specially designed for military men. Diaz and Maximilian stand out as loyal foes, each capable of estimating his adversary's worth. Mejia and Miramon fall naturally into the second place instead of being almost deified as patriots (so to speak, on strike, as they were fighting against their fatherland) as has been the case in most accounts of the sad episode. We see the Hapsburg prince, as Diaz saw him, and in his view, we recognise the greatness of the hero of the book. We see Benito Juarez as he really was, a cautious Indian, but an educated man, a patriot if such a thing exists, and yet not made by nature for a general. Lastly we read the letter Maximilian wrote the night before his death to Juarez, a letter which

Diaz probably placed at the disposal of his biographer, and which she with commendable fairness prints, and thus allows the Emperor in some respect to vindicate himself by the true, patriotic and the noble view he took of the affairs of his adopted country on his last night on earth. Though the whole book is interesting, perhaps this is the episode in which the writer shows most literary skill. Truly her enthusiasm for Mexico and for its President is great, but that enthusiasm should not betray her as it has in speaking of the whole of South America in such terms as these. "South America is a congeries of turbulent republics with a habit of repudiating debts and treaty obligations. This calls for occasional visits from foreign warships sent to overawe them." Nothing could be more widely removed from fact, and in a traveller such as is the author, it is hard to understand. Fancy a foreign warship sent to overawe the Argentine Republic, Brazil or Chile, and fancy either of these States repudiating either treaties or their debts! Moreover, both the Argentine Republic and Brazil are larger and more important States than Mexico. Both of them are richer than she is, and more important to the commerce of the world, but she has one thing which they lack, and that is a strong man, such as is Don Porfi, and he is lucky in having found a true enthusiast to write the story of his life. The illustrations, particularly the photographs of mules and horses (by the author) on the prairie, are all excellent, and the one which represents the writer riding, en cavalier, in a vaquero's saddle on a horse which to our eyes appears to be either a "grullo" or a "ruano", is most interesting. In taking leave of her, we thank the writer for a true fairy tale, so marvellous that had she sat down to invent it, 'tis ten to one that she had failed.

BROWNING AND CRITICISM.

"Browning and Dogma." By Ethel M. Naish. London: Bell. 1906. 4s. 6d. net.

ONE effect of every great poet is to modify, more or less, the canons and character of poetic criticism. To create a new atmosphere—and this is what every poet whom we can call great achieves-is obviously to create a new temperament in the world of readers. few great poets, however, can it be said that they have actually originated a new school, a new type of criticism altogether. Indeed we doubt whether this is quite true of any English poet, except Browning. And further, we doubt whether this truth, applicable as it is to Browning, is wholly a matter of congratulation either for Browning himself or for his critics. Miss Naish's book is a case in point. Here are seven lectures delivered in Birmingham before an audience which consisted (we have no hesitation in asserting) of Browning enthusiasts. The style is clear and workthe matter often thoughtful, and the plan manlike, most patiently elaborated. And yet, with all this, it is palpable that nobody, unless he be either a reviewer or a pledged member of that peculiar school of criticism to which Browning's work alone has given birth, would suffer these lectures to the end. We do not imply that they smack excessively of the Browning Society. from it. Vague sermonising—a vice almost inseparable from discussion of a poet's "teaching"—is here, on the whole, sincerely and firmly repressed. But the fundamental defect remains. The reader whose concern is with poetry, the reader, that is to say, who can hop with catholic delight from Milton to Shakespeare and from Keats to Wordsworth, will not get through this book. It is too conscientious; and conscientiousness, to be quite frank, is a quality of which a very little will go a long way in the domain of poetic criticism. A collator of Greek manuscripts, or a commentator on historical charters, can hardly be overburdened with this virtue. For such people it is the one thing needful. But a critic of poetry must be ever on his guard against it. Otherwise, he will land himself in the unhappy plight of one who loses his life by taking overmuch thought for the morrow.

On the very last page of this volume occurs the following: "It is impossible to doubt that with him

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the consciousness was strongly present, that 'Formulas do not exhaust the truth'; that 'the character and expression of Doctrine . . . is relative to the age'". The remarks about formulas and Doctrine (we have given the dots as they appear) are the subject of a footnote, and from the footnote we learn that a theological work by no less an author than Bishop Westcott is responsible for these statements of a truth which at the present day is fairly patent, we should have imagined, to any thoughtful child of twelve. This is an instance of what we mean by conscientiousness—a pathetic yearning for even the smallest contributions of moral or philosophic truth, and a thankful grasp of them at the hands of any writer whose respectability will lend them an air of profound wisdom. If, after working through seven lectures on Browning's attitude to dogma, one is really glad to have episcopal corrobora-tion of the fact that dogma "is relative to the age", one can only conclude that it is bed-time. Browning, like Wordsworth but immeasurably more so, had the extraordinary gift of arguing and continuing to be a poet at the same time. He invests the mere workings of the intellect with passion. Motives, for him, can be of the intellect with passion. Motives, for him, can be as romantic as actions. The psychology of the Bishop who orders his tomb is very much more complicated than the psychology of Hamlet soliloquising on death, but equally human. To have preserved this continuous human pulse, this appeal of flesh and blood, in the midst of all sorts of disquisitions on all sorts of recondite subjects, is the achievement which elevates many of Browning's poems to the position of absolute feats. It is just because Browning has this unique power that he is so difficult to criticise. The critic, unlike the poet is usually incapable of this pice and unlike the poet, is usually incapable of this nice and precarious mixture of passion and philosophy. Accordingly he is placed in a dilemma. He cannot afford to neglect Browning's erudition and Browning's philosophy, and at the same time he cannot afford to con-centrate his mind upon them. If he does the latter, he sophy, and at the same time he cannot afford to concentrate his mind upon them. If he does the latter, he is in a fair way to become (without knowing it) a critic of poetry no longer, but a Browning critic.

The Browning critic, as we have said, is a peculiar product. Peculiar, we mean, in the domain of literary criticism. Really, he is only one species of the genus Didactic, to whom the beauties of nature, no less than the follies of mankind fall an easy prey. During the

the follies of mankind, fall an easy prey. During the last forty years he has been active, chiefly, in the field of theological speculation. "Conflicts" and "reconciliations" between religion and existence artificial and the second serious and serious ciliations" between religion and science, exhibition matches between dogma and doubt, have irresistibly Poetry, along with everything else that was portable, has been dragged into this arena, and the principal victims have been Browning and Tennyson; Browning, though he really was a poet as well as a philosopher, and Tennyson, because he fancied he was a philosopher as well as a poet. The conjunction of Browning and Tennyson at this point is instructive. No great perception is required to observe that Tennyson, whenever he attempts theology or what is technically known as "thinking", instantly becomes limp and third-rate. But it is precisely in these hours of gloom that the sort of critic we are describing fastens upon him, and holds him up to our admiration. We may be pretty sure, therefore, without exhausting the encyclopædic mass of writings which are concerned with Browning's philosophy, that Browning's poetry, in the proper sense of that word, is "no object". We are not at the pains to define poetry. The writer of these proper sense of that word, is "no object". We are not at the pains to define poetry. The writer of these lectures, for instance, would probably inform us that our conception of "poetry" differs from hers. Poetry, she might say, is properly and worthily occupied with large and speculative considerations about life. To this we should agree. Browning himself has proved that; Shakespeare (according to the measure of his own day) has proved it. Our point is, that what makes Browning a poet is just what made Shakespeare a Browning a poet is just what made Shakespeare a poet; something, namely, which all lovers of poetry recognise, and which almost entirely escapes us as we read this volume, save in the quotations from Browning's himself. It is possible, in short, to love Browning's works without loving Browning's poetry. We do not understand the passion, but we know it to exist.

Let it be clear, then, that we offer no disparagement of this book. For what it is it is good.

of this book. For what it is, it is good. If people who

are interested in theology consider it helpful to track down the minutize of Browning's theological utterances, let them. But if, in view of this admission, the reader should wonder why we have noticed the book at all from our standpoint of purely poetic criticism, our reply is a simple one. We regard Browning as a poet, and we do not regard the utterances of a poet (even on theology) as of any value at all, when once the volatile thing we describe as poetry has been allowed to evaporate.

THE LAW MERCHANT.

"A Compendium of Mercantile Law." By John William Smith. Eleventh Edition by de Hart and Simey. 2 vols. London: Stevens and Sons Ltd.; Sweet and Maxwell Ltd. 1905. £2 2s.

NEITHER the matter nor the style of a law book intended for practitioners commends itself to a book-lover's taste; it were an instance of quite extravagant mental perversion to extend the cult of the first edition to legal text-books destined for daily use. They are the tools of a particular industry and must be kept in working order or replaced, so that—sad though it be from some points of view—there is little room for sentimental scruples when the appearance of a or sentimental scruples when the appearance of a new edition condemns its predecessor to oblivion. A glance at the first edition of Smith's "Mercantile Law" (if a copy is still to be found) will nevertheless provide matter for thought to a reflective mind. The first edition, which appeared in 1834, supplied a fair conspectus of the law as it was when books other than the reports were few in number; the eleventh edition is now upon us. Much has happened since 1834. The development of mercantile usage is shown by thousands of decisions and every branch of mercantile law has of decisions and every branch of mercantile law has been the object of specialised treatment. Again, the form of the law has undergone a complete revolution owing to the legislative—it would perhaps be more correct to say the enacting—activity displayed in the nineteenth century. Of the eighty-seven Acts of Parliament now printed in the appendix eleven only were in avistance in 1884. Apart from such subjects as in existence in 1834. Apart from such subjects as companies, bankruptcy, and merchant shipping which, as the products of modern conditions, necessitated the creation of an entirely new body of legislation, the law relating to bills of exchange, partnership and sale of goods is now to be found in statutes mainly declaratory of the common law. Without any disrespect to goods is now to be found in statutes mainly declara-tory of the common law. Without any disrespect to certain painstaking and distinguished draughtsmen, some good fairy with a taste for law would almost appear to have assumed alternately the guise of a Pollock or a Chambers and to have quietly gone to work, with the result that a mercantile code stands revealed which, if not perfect—we cannot refrain from shedding a tear over the marine insurance bill which was involved in the accustomed massacre of the innocents at the end of last session-is immeasurably superior to anything that has been achieved in systems not avowedly dependent upon case law for the development

of legal rules.
When the late Mr. John William Smith published his "Leading Cases" he inscribed on the title-page the passage from the Institutes, "It is ever good to rely upon the book at large; for many times Compendia sunt dispendia, and Melius est petere fontes quam sectari rivulos". Can it be that, writing in 1837, he already felt misgivings as to the value of his own "Compendium"? Whatever may have been the case in 1834, we should hesitate to predict a great measure of success for the present edition were it not for the fact that it is the eleventh of its line, so that there would seem to be those who buy the book and, possibly, use it. The learned editors have unnecessarily hampered themselves by making the old "Compendium" the basis of their work: the book is compiled in accordance with a traditional method whereby a mosaic of extracts from statutes and leading cases grows more and more elaborate in successive editions with a corresponding loss of clearness and consistency. Having regard to the present form of our law, a more useful book would have been produced by taking the statutes

as the basis and adding the necessary elucidations by way of commentary. Historically the statutes come

way of commentary. Historically the statutes come last, logically they should now be placed first.

To demand the application of modern methods to the preparation of a text-book is not necessarily to condemn the historical treatment of a legal topic. The arrangement of Messrs. de Hart and Simey's volumes itself illustrates the course along which our mercantile law developed. For while the statutes, which are placed last, are in the main the product of the nineteenth century, and the commentary is based on the decisions in which (mainly in the eighteenth century in the time of Lord Mansfield) the leading principles were laid down and developed, the excellent introduction by Sir John Macdonell, reprinted with slight alterations from the tenth edition, deals with the early history of the law merchant and serves to remind us that the origins of our mercantile law are largely anterior to the common law and in many respects independent of it. The law merchant was to a great extent developed out of the intercourse between traders of different nationalities and has been said to be the earliest form of international law. It was at the great fairs where in the middle ages merchants from different parts of Europe met that the rules governing their transactions took shape: it was there also that disputes were adjudicated upon by specially constituted tribunals of merchants before the parties separated. Our mercantile law originated as much at Lyons and Besançon, at Yprès and Antwerp, as at Winchester and Stourbridge and S. Ives. We have travelled far since the days when the laws of Oleron or the Consolato del Mare were invoked to determine disputed questions. In its earliest stages mercantile law applied exclusively to the affairs of a particular class and was administered by special tribunals. In that period the gild merchant ruled supreme, and without some authority of the kind it is hard to see how the law of that day could have found adequate sanctions. An advance is marked where the law, existing as a body of custom and still applicable solely to those engaged in commerce, was proved in the ordinary courts in much the same manner as a custom or a foreign law is now proved. And so we are brought to the incorporation of mercantile customs in the law of England. Traces of the time when mercantile law was held to apply only between those engaged in mercantile pursuits survive down to comparatively recent times. In the reign of William comparatively recent times. In the reign of William and Mary the Court of King's Bench in an action against the drawer of a bill of exchange upheld a special plea that the defendant was a "gentleman" and not a trader -a decision very properly reversed in the Exchequer Chamber, which saw no reason why a gentleman should refuse to meet a bill if he chose to draw one. so mercantile law instead of being international and exclusive becomes comprehensive and national. This is hardly the occasion to discuss the movement in favour of uniformity as illustrated by the resolutions of many chambers of commerce in various countries, and by the useful work which is being done by such bodies as the Institute of International Law and the Society of Comparative Legislation. This is a field in which Sir John Macdonell is well known. The early history of the law merchant has received but scanty attention from students in England. It is, we fear, too much to hope that Sir John Macdonell may find time amid his numerous activities to elaborate his studies in this interesting field.

"UNSCIENTIFIC HISTORY."

"The Political History of England." Vol. I. From the Earliest Times to the Norman Conquest. Thomas Hodgkin. London: Longmans. 7s. 6d. net.

WE have little doubt that this volume will be called VV unscientific by the straiter school of critics. The place which Dr. Hodgkin holds among historians is one of honourable isolation. He has gone his own way; he has formed his own idea of what a history ought to be. Hence it arises that he feels a certain constraint when he is called upon, as here, to pull in

the same team with the disciples of Stubbs and Round Their gods are not the gods of Dr. and Maitland. Hodgkin. He is irreverent enough to say that the Witan bears less resemblance to Parliament than to a council of the Visigothic Church. He has no taste for charters, and very little for genealogical minutiæ. He deals with the laws of our forefathers as Gibbon with the Corpus Juris, that is to say, respectfully and with understanding, but also without the faintest inclination to treat the development of law as the main factor in progress, or the most fascinating phenomenon in history. On the other hand he has declined to make himself a mere annalist, the favourite course of those to whom laws and legal documents and constitutional subtleties are anathema. He describes whatever happens to interest him in the ten centuries through which he takes his reader; here the course of a Roman wall, and there the legend of a miracle; battles and revolutions alternate in his pages with descriptions of memorial crosses, the open-field system and the homes of Christian missionaries. At every step we find him practising the art of selection and rejection. But it is an art which he pursues according to rules of his own

For this boldness he will pay the appropriate penalty. But we confess to a certain sympathy with his method, and to a proleptic impatience of the champions of the "scientific" method. What this may be we have never yet discovered. The definitions are as numerous as the practitioners. In the old-fashioned sense of the word, Dr. Hodgkin is scientific enough to satisfy all reasonable men. He has studied the authorities, and he employs them with discretion, neither treating them as verbally inspired nor challenging their evidence gratuitously. With the modern literature he is tolergratultously. With the modern therature he is tolerably conversant; when, as often happens, he is conservative in his interpretations of the evidence, he shows that he has duly weighed the arguments upon the other side. To the charge that he has provided nothing better than an agreeable olla podrida we imagine that he would reply: "I have no intention of civilization my subject a greater degree of unity than it. giving to my subject a greater degree of unity than it naturally possesses." It is evident that he belongs to the class, now too thinly represented, of those who shrink from constructing a symmetrical theory of development with the help of unproved hypotheses and precarious generalisations. He preserves a cautious scepticism when general laws and formulæ of evolution are proposed for his acceptance. He is satisfied to present us with a narrative which explains, so far as the sources permit, the movement towards political unity. Upon this narrative he strings anecdotes and vignettes of social life in such a way as to suggest the material conditions and the state of mind which gave to old English life its distinctive character and worth. There is just sufficient method in his book, just enough of general theorising, to hold the attention of the reader and suggest a significance lying hid in the order of events.

The explanation of this unusual self-restraint lies, we imagine, in the fact that Dr. Hodgkin knows the history of other countries besides England. In "Italy and her Invaders" he has already treated a subject which compelled him to range from one end to another of the Empire in its last stages of decline, and to bring under review all the barbarian kingdoms of the West. Although included in a series and so divorced from his earlier work the present volume evidently ranks, in the purpose of Dr. Hodgkin, as a supplement or an appendix. Hence the unusual interest which he displays in the annals of the Roman occupation; hence the gradual cooling of his interest as he approaches the point at which Stubbs and Freeman awake to animation. the point at which stubbs and Freeman aware to animation. It is in the Dark Ages that the interest of Dr. Hodgkin lies; he cannot find it in his heart to be enthusiastic that England should take the lead in moving towards a better form of national organisation. The Romans are more to him than the Saxons or Angles; he palpably regrets the passing of the sceptre from Bamburgh to York, from York to Lichfield and thence to Winchester. In the abstract he recognises that behind these and other changes lie the forces of the future. But he thinks of those forces as something insular and petty; he bears them a grudge n th V

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because they sap and sweep away the stage of civilisation that he knows and loves. He would prefer to see England more closely linked with the Continent; he would also prefer to see her more archaic. Local patriotism has combined with his previous studies to fortify this frame of mind. Dr. Hodgkin cannot tear himself away, even in thought, from his Bernician home. His descriptions of Northumbrian scenes and sites strike a personal note which is wanting elsewhere in his book. We can cordially recommend to all who know and love the north country his word-pictures of Hadrian's Wall, of Bamburgh, of Holy Island and the Farnes, of Whitby and Durham. They are not ambitious; they are not imaginative; but they have colour and reality.

THE JAPANESE NATIONAL CULT.

"Shinto. The Way of the Gods." By W. G. Aston. London: Longmans. 1905. 6s. net.

M. ASTON is a distinguished member of the VI very small group of profound scholars to whose industry, genius, and eminent philosophic and philological capacity we owe all our scientific knowledge of the history, religions, statecraft and language of Japan —a group in which the most prominent names are, we may take a legitimate pride in stating, almost exclusively those of our own countrymen. Other nationalities have no doubt contributed their quota of savants who have written on esoteric subjects of varied scope, but it is English scholars alone who have acquired a mastery of what is one of the most difficult languages on earth, which enables them to seek and investigate their authorities at first hand and places them on a level with the brightest native lights of literature in Japan itself. Mr. Aston was the first foreigner to elucidate the of the Japanese language. He is the author of the standard work on the literature of Japan, and the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society" bear witness to his historical research; but we doubt if any of the great services which he has already rendered is more valuable. more valuable—none can be more thorough—than this exhaustive exposition of the mysteries of the Way of the Gods, the indigenous cult of Japan, the alleged foundation of much of the patriotism, energy and altruism of the people. No part of his subject has escaped his notice, and his materials are arranged in a logical sequence which makes them clear even to a casual reader. But the book is not for casual readers. for the scientific students of humanity who take more than a passing interest in the inner life of a people interesting in themselves and made more so to us by political alliance. They will find in it separate chapters on the general features of Shintoism; on its deification of human beings, beginning with the sovereigns, which has been fallaciously regarded by many European scholars as one of the greatest sources of its pantheon; on that pantheon as it actually exists; on its history, the morality which it teaches, and on its ritual; and the whole is preceded by a list of the native authorities from whose works Mr. Aston has obtained the material for his own; the number of them is in itself testimony. for his own; the number of them is in itself testimony

enough to the wideness of his research.

Shintoism as compared with the great religions of the world is, Mr. Aston says, perhaps the least developed of all which have an adequate literary record. According to one of the early American missionaries it is, as a religion, hollow, empty and iejune beyond any other that is known among men. It has no bible, no dogma, no moral code of its own. It has neither heaven nor hell, no system of reward or punishment after death, no regular ceremonial worship, no priesthood whose lives are exclusively devoted to its services, and the deep earnest faith that is so marked a feature among devoted followers of other religions, Christian, Mohammedan or Buddhist, is never found among its adherents. And yet it has exercised a deep influence on the history and character of the Japanese people. Its foundation lies in the belief that the islands of Japan were the first formed in the world out of the infinite space that prevailed before the origin

of all things, when neither heaven nor earth existed, and that the sovereignty of those islands was subsequently conferred on the direct ancestor of the Mikado who was himself the near descendant of the Gods of Heaven. From this belief springs the fanatical love of all Japanese for their country, the land of the gods, far above all others, and the reverence for the sovereign, which not only secures the most unquestioning acceptance of every decree which his infallible wisdom promulgates but ascribes to his virtues every glory that is won by the arms of his soldiers and sailors. In every household in Japan, from the palace down to that of the humblest peasant, Shinto altars find a place and prayers are offered before them every night. Every Japanese is at birth placed under the protection of a special tutelary Shinto deity, and no matter how poor he makes at least one pilgrimage in his lifetime to the temple of Ise, the Mecca of his faith. How intense is the national regard for those temples may be assumed from the fact that one of the greatest leaders of modern Japan, one of her greatest statesmen, was assassinated a very few years ago because he had profanely touched the curtain of the altar with his walking cane, and the memory of his assassin was not execrated but lovingly cherished to a degree that amounted almost to canonisation. A cult which has such effects among a quick-witted, materialistic people can hardly be the vapid thing which, in ignorance, Europeans have been accustomed to hold it.

NOVELS.

"The Scholar's Daughter." By Beatrice Harraden. London: Methuen. 1906. 6s.

Miss Beatrice Harraden's latest novel is a triumph of "manner". The material out of which the plot is constructed is woefully thin and unconvincing, but such is the quiet charm of the author's style that the reader, however critical his inclination, cannot but capitulate and surrender wholeheartedly to its gentle persuasion. Few could have rendered interesting the very commonplace theme with which the book deals. The story from first to last bristles with improbabilities which the author makes no attempt to justify or tone down. The incidents happen without the least plausibility to subserve the purposes of theatrical effect. Geraldine Grant is the daughter of an austere and self-centred scholar who lives a life of seclusion in a lonely country house, engaged in the compilation of a colossal dictionary. Soured by the unfaithfulness of his wife shortly after his daughter's birth no woman is admitted to his house. He has brought up his daughter to believe her mother dead and has carefully isolated her from the companionship of women. But heredity it is to be supposed will out, and Geraldine practises her powers of fascination on the three middle-aged secretaries who assist her father. The arrival of a young man from "the Bush", however, creates a fresh interest, and Geraldine, who is quite a rapid young person, has him at her feet in three days. This lightning love-tale and the very obvious identification as his wife of a famous actress, Miss Charlotta Selbourne, on her casual appearance at the professor's house make up this slender story. "The Scholar's Daughter" lacks the grip and the pathos of "Ships that Pass in the Night".

"Mr. Muldoon: a Story." By Michael O'Donovan. London: Greening. 1906. 6s.

Opening well this book creates the hope that a sort of Irish Gil Blas has been invented by the author. But Mr. O'Donovan's judgment is altogether at fault, and he has no sense of selection. His style seems to be modelled on that of the feeblest imitators of Dickens' weakest mannerisms, and the would-be comic pompousness of most of the dialogue is intolerable. Muldoon lives successfully by his wits, and acts inturn as man-servant to a priest and a Dublin doctor, partner in a betting agency, street ballad-singer, and "emergency man" on a boycotted farm. At last he marries the elderly daughter of a rich publican. The author has a certain sense of farce in low life, but is quite hopeless when he attempts to draw people of a

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better class, and scurrilous when he touches on the Constabulary. The book is terribly long-winded, and although out of its three hundred odd pages one or two episodes might have been amusing as sketches in a newspaper, Mr. O'Donovan will have to devote much pains to acquiring the rudiments of the novelist's art before he can make a success as either humourist or satirist.

"A Supreme Moment." By Mrs. Hamilton Synge. London: Unwin. 1905. 6s.

The subject of this book has the recommendation of novelty. Agatha Rothingham is preoccupied with the needs and comforts of a delicate and exacting brother. She punctually fulfils her social duties both to rich and poor. She has a reasonable regard for a widowed clergyman with four children, whom she is to marry when he gets promotion. It is a decent, orderly, well-regulated life, but there are times when Agatha is dimly aware of its limitations. Now, in novels such a situation is usually relieved by the coming of "the right man"; but in this story a woman's influence puts an end to the long frost. Estelle Bamfylde, orphaned by the death of a Bohemian father, comes on a long visit to the Rothinghams. Estelle is a mysterious girl, who breaks, one after another, the fetters of convention in which the various characters are bound. By association with Estelle Agatha gradually realises that she has hitherto been a mere machine. She learns, at a "supreme moment", what true sympathy and affection are; and a new Agatha is born. Unhappily, Estelle is so vaguely and sketchily portrayed that it is hard to credit her with the possession of such wonder-working powers.

"The Drakestone," By Oliver Onions, London: Hurst and Blackett, 1906. 6s.

Mr. Onions' work is in many ways so admirable and so conspicuously clever that one wonders why it is not more completely effective and satisfactory. The fault lies partly in the method of narration which is at times confused and incoherent, and partly in the lack of concentration on one main interest, for the author shows far greater skill in characterisation and in description than in construction and cumulative effect. "The Drakestone" is a study, executed in a sober and even gloomy colour-scheme, of Yorkshire life some eighty years ago. The author limits the scope of his narration and at the same time enhances the picturesque oldworld effect of his story by placing it in the mouth of one of his characters, a sturdy, honest, but rather surly young Yorkshireman.

"A Toy Tragedy." By Mrs. Henry de la Pasture. London: Cassell. 1906. 3s. 6d.

That a goodly section of the reading public consists of people who like to have their feelings harrowed, who like to read of the sufferings, sentimentalisings and deaths of small children, there can be no doubt. Mrs. de la Pasture can write so pleasantly, so engagingly about young people—a great portion of this volume establishes that fact—that we cannot help regretting that she should so persistently spice her fair banquet with the dust of death. We can scarcely believe in the childish impersonation on which the story turns; but might have found it more credible had the result been comedy instead of tragedy.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Polo Past and Present." "Country Life" Library of Spor By T. F. Dale. London: Newnes. 1905. 12s. 6d. net.

The section of this book dealing with the polo of the remote past might it seems to us well have been omitted. There is little authority given for the various surmises and deductions of the author; though it is more than likely that some sort of game with club and ball was played in ancient times, both mounted and dismounted: when, however, Mr. Dale comes to polo of later date he is on much safer ground, and his chronicles and writing are much to be commended. We could have wished that he had given more space to the polo of the Colonies, more especially to that

played in Canada. There is much polo played in Eastern Canada, but it is in the West, the glorious country of the prairies and under the shade of the mighty Rockies that an enthusiastic band of young British sportsmen have made polo their principal game. Many clubs have been started from Winnipeg West to Calgary, and it is safe to say that the game is played by each one of them quite as hard, if not quite so scientifically, as at Hurlingham, Ranelagh, or Roehampton. (The game cannot be so scientific because of the roughness of the ground.) Ponies are excellent, well-bred and well-trained. We shall not readily forget a tournament at Regina many years ago when eight teams competed and the games which were played on the roughest of ground, with the thermometer anything between 85° and 100° in the shade, and in the presence of a big crowd, mainly composed of Indians, who watched the game with the greatest interest. It was, indeed, a day to be remembered. Mr. Dale, however, has written on the whole an excellent book, and we can thoroughly recommend it to all interested in perhaps the most fascinating game that was ever invented. If we do not quite agree with his handicapping theories, that is a comparatively small matter, and quite an arguable one. The great thing, of course, is to have a good even game, and anything which will promote that end will be heartily welcomed by all lovers of the sport. The illustrations are numerous and in most cases quite adequate. The polo season of 1905 saw the welcome return to the game of Mr. George Miller and the defeat by the Rugby team composed of the three brothers Miller and Mr. Walter Jones of perhaps the most brilliant team playing together during the season, viz. Messrs. Buckmaster, Freake, P. W. Nicholls, and Rawlinson. Regimental polo provided as usual some of the most exciting games of the year. Those who were fortunate enough to see the semi-final between the 17th Lancers and the Inniskillings (the eventual winners) when the latter won by the Roehampton team from the old

"Madame Geoffrin: her Salon and her Times." By Janet Aldis. London: Methuen. 1906. 10s. 6d. net.

Madame Geoffrin's influence for a quarter of a century is quite a baffling personal problem in the history of French society in the eighteenth century. From 1750 to 1776 she reigned as one of the most powerful salonières of her time. Yet she was essentially a member of the middle class and her gatherings were famous for their high moral tone. All important strangers to Paris sought an introduction to Madame Geoffrin, and her parties were the most successful in Paris. As Mrs. Aldis says the secret may perhaps be sought chiefly in the fact that she was a reformer—though a decidedly cautious one; and French society at that time on the edge of the Revolution was seething with speculation and plans for change. Art—though she herself knew nothing about it; diplomacy—though she did not engage in it; literature and the public service were always well represented at her salon. Notwith-standing this her life was quiet and on the whole uneventful. Mrs. Aldis has studied the history and the memoirs of the times closely. She draws from Argenson, Mercier, Marmontel, Madame Necker and others, and has written a decidedly interesting book. There are many references to Rousseau in the volume. Latterly Rousseau became without doubt a notoriety seeker: it was very different in his earlier years when he was content to live a hermit's life with Nature: there are few pages in French literature perhaps more delightful than those in the "Confessions" in which he describes his wild-flower hunting and his long, lonely boating excursions, which remind one of Shelley.

(Continued on page 404.)

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4 Petronii Cena Trimalchionis." Edited with Critical and Explanatory Notes and Translated into English Prose. By W. D. Lowe. Cambridge: Deighton, Bell and Co.; London: Bell. 1905. 7s. 6d. net.

The figure of Petronius, "arbiter elegantiæ", as Tacitus calls him, stands out vividly against the motley background of Nero's court. Profligate debauchee and capable administrator, volatile minion and wielder of a robust and sane style, he is one of the last expressions of that Roman versatility which is so striking a feature of history. His work is as remarkable as his personality, being a very long and elaborate skit on the ways and manners of provincial society, and we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Lowe for presenting the principal fragment, which is only a very small part of the whole, in so attractive and accessible a form. The "Dinner of Trimalchio" is a piece of fine broad satiric comedy, which has been well compared by Professor Mackail with Fielding's work, and whose nearest parallel in Latin, as Mr. Lowe points out, is the "Apocolocyntosis" of Seneca. It is marred by gross indecencies, "on lit Pétrone, on ne le cite pas", says Duruy, but presents very vividly the profligate tasteless extravagance and the vulgar indiscriminate geniality of the provincial parvenu under the early Empire. We have here a sound upto-date text, based on Bücheler, some excellent elucidatory notes, and a free but faithful English version which will be of great value and interest to any who may wish to wander down this curious byway of Latin literature.

" Noteworthy Families." By Francis Galton and Edgar Schuster. London: Murray. 1906. 6s. net.

This is the first volume of what promises to be a very useful work throwing light on heredity and kinship. It deals with "Modern Science" and among the families are those of Mr. Arthur Balfour, Lord Raleigh, Sir John Ball, Baron Kelvin and the Darwins. The notes on "noteworthy" members of each family are perhaps not very entertaining or stimulating in themselves, being gathered largely from books of reference, and in many cases are no more than a bare account of the date of birth and occupation of the genius himself or the "noteworthy" members of the genius's family. Thus under the heading "Balfour the Right Hon. Arthur James" we have: "bro, Rt Hon Gerald W. Balfour (b 1853) P.C, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; President of the Board of Trade 1902" (by the way are not "Rt Hon" and "PC" one and the same?). But the authors obviously cannot in a work of this kind deal in a critical way with living public men. In a few cases it seems to us that "noteworthiness" of the members of the families chosen is hardly proven. One leading man of science has a brother described as "successful landagent and surveyor". Does he get us much more forward in our investigation of genius and heredity? The authors state in the very interesting introductory parts of this volume that they have experienced much difficulty in getting together even a bare list of the near relations of leading men. We are not at all surprised. Big men and little alike cannot as a rule enumerate their cousins and aunts.

"The Champagne Standard." By Mrs. John Lane. London: Lane. 1906. 6s.

Mrs. Lane in this volume has collected and republished the light social sketches and skits which have appeared from time to time in "The Fortnightly", "Blackwood", and the "Outlook". The volume takes its title from the opening article which satirises the pretentious English hostess for giving champagne at her dinners when she cannot afford it. It is not so much the custom of giving champagne which one objects to; it is the quality of the wine. The champagne given by foolish, poor, ambitious people is so bad—this is where the real mischief lies. Much better go in for Emu or Harvest Burgundy and get your threepence back for the bottle or flagon. Australian wine may not be a delicate wine, yet it is good for some invalids. Cheap champagne is pop, and it hurts for days afterwards. Mrs. Lane's papers are light agreeable fare for those who want to know about certain sections of society, their follies and trifles, and her book was made to be read.

"The London Building Acts." By Bernard Dicksee. Second Edition. London: Stanford. 1906. 7s. 6d. net.

Property-owners and architects will find much to do, during the next year or so, in complying with the drastic requirements for providing means of escape from fire which the County Council are by their Act of last session authorised to make with respect to buildings in London. Mr. Dicksee, who has special experience derived from his official position as district surveyor, has taken occasion from this recent legislation to bring out a new edition of his book. It is in a form which will be found extremely handy as a guide to the complicated building laws of London.

Readers of German will find in the extensive library of histories known as "Geschichte der Europaischen Staaten" learned volumes dealing separately with each European State from the earliest to the most recent times. They are pub-

lished by Friedrich Andreas Perthes of Gotha. The latest volumes are the "History of Bohemia", by Adolf Bachmann, and the "History of the Roumanian People", by Professor N. Jorga, of Bucharest. To show the scale on which these books are written it may be mentioned that the History of England is in ten volumes down to 1850.

Another shilling library! It will soon be hard at this rate to name a publisher who has not brought out or the editor who has not introduced a series of this kind. Messrs. Methuen are the latest to bring out a shilling series—"The Standard Library", edited by Sidney Lee. These volumes were originally published at a higher price. The paper and print are as good as one could expect at the price. The opening volumes are Southey's "Life of Nelson", Law's "Serious Call", More's "Utopia" and Plato's "Republic". We have also received the "Little Flowers of St. Francis" bound in paper price 6d. and Burns' "Poems" in a similar cover 1s.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 15 Mars. 3fr.

The two most remarkable papers in this number are the commencement of one novel and the conclusion of another. Pierr Lotie is breaking new ground in "Les Désenchantées" a romance of life as it is to-day in a Turkish harem. We confess that we were unprepared to learn that Western culture had already made such strides on ground that would have seemed unpromising, but if he is to be credited the younger generation of Turkish ladies among the upper classes are not only accomplished musicians and linguists, but read and discuss the latest philosophic works and correspond with French novelists. We await with great interest the development of what seems at first sight a strange story. The last chapters of Fojazzaro's "II Santo", admirably translated, give an extraordinarily powerful picture of the new Catholic movement in Italy. How far the doings of Benedetto "the Saint" as recorded here have any foundation in reality we have no means of judging, but the attempt to develop a Liberal-Catholic revival both in Italy and France has in it much to stimulate sympathy, though the idea may seem impossible of fulfilment and perhaps not to be desired. In any case the conception of Benedetto's character is a most beautiful one and in all probability such a preacher of righteousness appearing to-day in Italy would meet with just as warm a reception from the peasantry as is pictured here and just as cool a one from the official and political classes in Church and State.

For this Week's Books see page 406.

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To be presented to the Shareholders at their Thirty-third Ordinary General Meeting, to be held at the Offices in Dresden, on the 31st March, 1906.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID Marks 160,000,000 (£8,000,000)
RESERVE FUND Marks 42,850,000 (£2,142,500)

RESERVE FUND.

... Marks 42,850,000 (£2,142,500)

We beg to report that out of the profits for the year ending 31st December, 1905, we recommend a dividend of \$\frac{3}{2}\$ per cent.

The grows profits shown do not include the revenue derived from the accounts for 1906.

The very large increase in the turnover, namely, M.53,211,002,40175, as against M.38,430,244,900 20, exceeds the expectations which we formed from the extension of our sphere of action referred to in previous reports. The increase is shown at all our offices, but has been most marked in Berlin and at our branches in Hamburg and London.

In order to complete our organisation in the South of Germany, we recently opened a branch at Munich. Our organisation, as far as Germany is concerned, being thus practically complete, it will be our endeavour during the coming years to extend and develop our connections in those transmarine countries with which Germany maintains active commercial relations. To this end we and the A. Schaaff hausen ache Bankverein jointly with the Nationalbank für Deutschland have founded two banks having their head offices in Berlin, namely, the Deutschland have founded two banks having their head offices in Berlin, namely, the Deutschland have founded two banks having their head offices in Berlin, namely, the Deutschland have founded two banks having their head offices has been paid up, while the balance will be called as required. The Deutschland have forent bank to be beginning of the new year and has opened branches in Hamburg, Constantinople, and Alexandria. The Deutschland of the present opening branches in Hamburg ard Buenos Ayres, at which latter place an existing bank building has been acquired in a favourable position, and business transactions, into which either party may enter.

The year 1905 was, on the whole, a gratifying one as regards German economic life. The position of agriculture during the last few years, aided by satisfactory

crops and favourable prices for a part of its products, has shown material progress. The favourable prospects of trade and industry to which we drew attention at the beginning of the year have materialised, and most branches of commerce have shown a large measure of activity.

The coal and iron industries, thanks to their organic strength, withstood the serious disturbance caused by the great strike in the Ruhr district without taking much harm, the iron industry being aided in recovery by an increasing domestic demand and a remunerative export trade.

Electric undertakings have also shown great progress, both at home and abroad. At present it looks as if the satisfactory employment of German works and factories will continue during the critical period of the increase of our tarifi, although we have to reckon with the possibility that its hampering effects will be felt sooner or later.

In these conditions banking operations, during the first half-year particularly, offered numerous opportunities for remunerative business, and if during the second half-year business was rather quiete the reason has to be sought not in our economic file, but in a succession of political disturbances. The internal disorders in Russia which followed the conclusion of peace with Japan had a paralyzing effect upon all European markets: then followed the apprehension, probably of an exaggerated nature, but sufficient to disturb the nerves of the commercial world, that the difference of opinion between France and Germany in relation to Moroccan affairs might lead to serious complications. We trust that in both directions the near future will bring a satisfactory solution and thereby afford to German industry the means still further to profit by the existing trade activity.

Rates of interest during the greater part of the year were lower than in 1904. The private discount rate on the Berlin Bourse has averaged 3°84 per cent., as against 3°137 per cent. in 1904, and 3°05 per cent. in 1904, and 3°05 per cent. on the 4th November to 5°2

sidered that new issues, principally or municipal toans, continue to plentiful.

The profits shown on Stock and Syndicate Account are accounted for partly by the advantageous realisation of holdings acquired prior to the year under review, and partly from syndicate accounts which have now been closed, but a considerable portion of profits of this nature will only be accounted for in the current year. Our interest in the Rand mining industry has been written down to such an extent that even a continuance of present adverse conditions cannot exercise any appreciable effect on our future earnings.

The number of deposit accounts has increased from 35,634 in 1904 to 40,335.

Dresden, March 1906.

E GUTMANN. ARNSTADT. G. KLEMPERER. DALCHOW.

E. GUTMANN. ARNSTÄDT. G. KLEMPERER. DALCHOW. MUELLER. L. VON STEIGER. NATHAN. SCHUSTER. The full report (in German) may be obtained on application at the London office, No. 65 Old broad Street, E.C.

BALAN	CE	5H	EET,			ber	31st,	19	05,
D.			LIABI		-				
DR.					ES.				(0
To Share Capital			0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0		£8,000,00
Reserve Fund A			4.9		0.0		0.0		1,725,00
., ., B				**	**	**	**		350,00
Current Accounts				**	0.0		0.0	0.0	36,753,15
Acceptances again						0.0			8,534,23
besides Guara		for a	c of thi	ird pa	rties		£ 1,352,	994	
Dividends unpaid		0.0		0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	1,29
Pension Funds									111,88
Adjustment of Bra	anche	5		0.0					2,28
Profit									1,049,05
									£46,526,90
CR.				ETS.					
y Cash		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.9	23,245,664
Bills Receivable		**			9.0		0.0		8,838,081
Cash Balances wit	th oth	er Ba	nks and	Ban	cers	0.0	0.0		1,836,49
Loans		0.0		0.0	0.0				6,972,60
Investments in oth					0.0		0.0		956,079
Government Secur	rities,	Rail	way and	othe	r Bond	is and	Shares		3,331,946
Current Accounts									19,002,449
of which	covere	nd	0.0				£83.797.	200	2
besides G	uaran	tees f	or a/c o	f thin	d parti	es	£1,352,		
Syndicates						**	20-139-1	324	2,282,449
Bank Premises			**		**		**	**	949,390
Pension Funds' Se			**						111,815
1 000000 1 0000 00			-						
P	DDO	D W PP	AND	1000		20113	7.00		£46,526,90
o Current Expenses		4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	€335,950
Taxes			11.	**		0.0	0.0	0.0	48,88
Amount written of							* *		13,569
Amount written of								0.0	235
Profit adjustment					cher B	ankve		per	
Contract			0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12,67
Profit					0.0		* *		1,049,057
								-	£1,460,361
								-	21,400,30
CR.									
y Balance from 1904			9.0	0.0			0.0	0.0	£3,934
Gross Profit, 1905			0.0	0.9	* *	* *		**	1,456,427
									£ 1,460,361
DR.		AF	PROP	RIAT	TION.			_	
o Amount written of	Bank	k Pre	mises			**	**		£50,000
Reserve Fund B.							**		67,500
Directors .				0.0			0.0		44,779
Managers and Bra	nch A	Janas							136,005
Gratuities to Staff				**	**			**	58,500
	**		**	**	**	**	**		10,689
Dividend of 81 per	CARP.	to Sh	arehold	ers or		20 000		**	680,000
Profit and Loss No	cent	00 30	arenoid	ers of	20,00	w, wa		**	3,573
Front and Loss N	ew Mc	coun			**			**	
									£1,049,057
CR. y Amount in hand as	per I	Profit	and Lo	as Acı	count		**	**	£1,049,057

IND, COOPE, AND CO.

An ordinary general meeting of Messrs. Ind, Coope, and Co. (Limited), was held yesterday at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, Mr. E. Murray Ind, Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Secretary having read the usual notices,
The Chairman, in proposing that the report should be adopted, called attention to the items of the accounts, remarking that the brewery buildings, freeholds, and leasehold property stood at £2,929,334. This showed a decrease of £23,123, which was owing to the depreciations written off during the year. As to the profit and loss account he said that they had made a gross profit of £423,238. He thought that was a very large and satisfactory amount, and that they would agree with him that any business which could make a profit of that kind in those bad times must have a large amount of vitality in it. On the other side of the account, he was pleased to tell them that they had been able to make a very considerable saving in their expenses, which they had looked into in every possible way. They had already made a saving of about £21,000, and had not yet come to the end of the savings. During the year they had not only had to fight against bad trade, but they had also to contend against very dear materials, especially as regards hops. Owing to the bad trade, it had been very difficult in some districts to get good tenants for their houses, and hence the item on the balance-sheet of the loss of houses under management. But he felt confident that trade was improving, and especially in country districts, and in the Midlands and North of England they felt certain that that item would disappear, and they would be able to find tenants for the houses which had been—they thought temporarily—under a cloud owing to bad trade. They had materially extended their foreign trade. He complained that the war tax had not been removed, and said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been approached on the subject. That war tax had not been removed, and said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been approached

held their own, amid the prevailing depression, better than many brewing firms. Some questions having been put and answered, the report was adopted.

Mr. E. T. Masluter, Mr. E. J. Coope, Mr. W. R. Biddell and Mr. A. E. B. Ind, and one of the trustees of the late Mr. O. E. Coope, retired from the board, and the following gentlemen—Messrs. E. T. Hargreaves, R. H. Tennant, J. Barrington White, and J. Pullman—were elected to the board, upon the motion of Sir Henry Farquhar (representing a committee of the Preference shareholders appointed last year).

st year).

The proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks

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THE Ninth Ordinary General Meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, was held on Monday, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C. Colonel Sir C. Euan-Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I. (chairman of the Company), pre

The Secretary (Mr. Henry W. Allen, F.C.L.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the anditors,
The Chairman and: It would be seen from the profit and loss account that the net profit for the year under review again shows a substantial increase upon recent years. It is Account in excess of the profit for the year which ended Septembergars. It is Account in excess of the profit for the year which ended Septembergars. It is Account the profit of the year which mended Septembergors which is the second of the undertaking, it is inevitable that until the organization has been fully developed this progress must be slow and sure; and it must always be borne in mind that we are not a yet deriving any revenue from that part of the Company's undertaking from which the largest profits are anticipated—viz., the use of the Marconi of the company have possibly been more or less accustomed to regard the Marconi enterprise as greatly differing in character from ordinary industrial undertakings, and as possessing the chance of much larges profits than are usually to be anticipated from enterprise of an ordinary of the company of the company in the chance of our business are revenue sufficient to pay a satisfactory divident. The retention of the sum that could be made available to pay such a dividend has been determined on by the directory, because they wish to tempete the firm family applicated on the directory to the company of the profit of the sum that could be made available to pay such a dividend has been determined on by the directory, because they wish to tempete the firm family position as much only the directory, because they wish to tempete the firm family position as with the such as a continuous control of the sum of the company and the pay and the pay and the pay and a dividend has been determined on the form to which have a control of the sum that could be made available to pay such a dividend has been determined on the form the such as a summary of the pays of the profit of the pays of t

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